

150 من الأصل

In your new TV and arts guide today...  
Everything from Ibsen to Kristofferson



In the new Long Weekend section...  
Everything from poetry to hats, skiing to escaping



Plus our best pictures from the past ten years  
In our award-winning Saturday Magazine



# Major: You're a liar, Mr Adams



## Sinn Fein leader responds by regretting 'personal abuse'

Anthony Bevis and David McKitterick

The Prime Minister yesterday directly linked Gerry Adams with the murder of Warrant Officer James Bradwell - the closest he or any other minister has ever come to accusing the Sinn Fein leader of complicity in murder.

WO Bradwell died yesterday from injuries suffered in the IRA bombing of Lisburn barracks earlier this week. In a passage added to the text of his Bournemouth conference speech, John Major paid special tribute to the first soldier to die since the IRA ceasefire was announced in August 1994.

He then proceeded to attack Mr Adams in the most scathing terms. "For many months, Sinn Fein leaders have mouthed the word peace. Warrant Officer James Bradwell was 43, with a wife and with children, Mr Adams."

continues to seek victory, not accommodation."

The Prime Minister also used his speech to announce an expansion of power for the Commons cross-party Northern Ireland Committee, setting up ministerial question times and allowing it to take evidence on proposed legislation.

The measure was clearly designed to please Unionists who have been pressing for such measures for some years. As such many observers saw it as intended to help keep the Ulster Unionist Party - and its much-

had contact with republicans privately this week advanced the opinion that the Lisburn bombings "were probably aimed more at Tony Blair than at John Major". He meant that the IRA may have been more concerned with placing Northern Ireland on the political agenda of the next government rather than altering the course of this one.

The political talks at Stormont, while continuing at a snail's pace, are at least still in session and it is clear that their continuation would be jeopardised by any question of a government concession to the IRA.

Any appearance of concession on arms decommissioning would create a protest against what would be seen as transparent appeasement of terrorism. Such a move would probably lead to a general Unionist walkout from the talks.

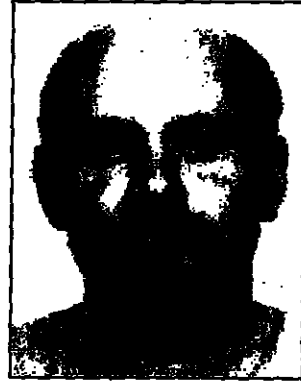
None the less, it was noted that in spite of his attack the Prime Minister did not close his mind to an IRA ceasefire and its eventual inclusion in talks.

"The IRA has always believed that Britain can be defeated by terrorism," he said. "They have always been wrong. And they are wrong now." Mr Major added: "No one will take Sinn Fein seriously ever again until they show a serious commitment to end violence for good."

When Ulster ministers were later pressed to explain whether Mr Major was accusing the Sinn Fein leader of complicity in the bombing, they were careful to direct *The Independent* to Mr Major's words.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told *The Independent*: "It reflected exactly what all decent people feel: revulsion at the contrast between those who speak of peace and at the same time are associated with acts of murder."

Peace vigil, page 2  
Leading article, page 17



WO James Bradwell: Bomb victim who died yesterday

needed Commons votes - on side with the Major government. The UUP leader, David Trimble, has recently generated some Government concern by making conciliatory moves towards Labour and its leader Tony Blair.

In Belfast the confrontational rhetoric from both the Prime Minister and the republicans is seen as confirmation that the two sides have written off the idea of doing any serious business together in advance of the general election. Both seem more concerned with recrimination and apportioning blame rather than working out a deal to make another IRA ceasefire more likely. One source who has

## I'm going to fight them in the streets

Edited extracts from John Major's Bournemouth speech

Throughout the last 17 years we have changed Britain. But not enough. There's still more to do - spreading choice, extending opportunity, these are ceaseless tasks.

The show goes on. The road goes on. It stretches far ahead - a good education, rewarding jobs, security. That's what matters to millions of quiet, decent, home-loving families up and down the country, the people who care for their children, work hard, save for old age, and are proud of this country. Alone, you cannot hear their soft voice. But collectively they speak for Britain. Our message is for them.

I didn't come from two rooms in Brixton to 10 Downing Street not to go out and fight with every fibre of my being for the things I believe in and the country I love. So come the election, where will I be? I'll be out in the towns and streets... in market squares and city centres

I'll go round the country and speak face to face to as many people as I possibly can. I'll talk about opportunity, opportunity for all. I'll tell them straight and I'll tell them true... I will be the one talking to the people in the middle of the crowd. So come and join me and I promise you, we'll win.

I came into politics to open doors, not shut them. They were opened for me. I was born in the war. My father was 66. My mother was surprised. We were like millions of others. Not well off, but comfortable, until financially the roof fell in... If changed our life. My mother coped - as women do. I left school at 16, because an extra £5 a week mattered. I learnt from that experience. In the game of life, we Tories should even up the rules. Giving people opportunity

marks the great divide in British politics. In its heart, Old Labour, New Labour, any old Labour, believes that government knows best. I don't.

Opportunity for all. It's in the bloodstream of our party. It was Shaftesbury who gave an education to thousands of children from poor homes. It was Disraeli who gave many working men the freedom to vote. It was Salisbury who brought free education within the reach of almost every family in England. And it was Margaret Thatcher who sold council houses and public industries, giving people a real stake in this country.

I believe we should give families opportunity and choice and a wider, warmer view of life. Our belief in choice is the driving force of our policy - it's not a political ploy, for me it is the

core of what I believe in. I start with education... If parents want more grant-maintained schools - they shall have them. More specialist schools - we'll provide them. More selection - they'll have it... And if parents want grammar schools in every town, well then so do I, and they shall have them. We're aiming for the least possible tax to give the greatest possible choice. As we can afford it, we'll move to a 20p basic rate for all. That is our priority.

Dependency must be about needs, not a culture. I can't stand welfare cheats. They deprive those in real need.

Our NHS is unique. In this country, when you're ill, we take your temperature. In other countries, they take your credit card. While I'm in Downing Street that will never happen. I'm the first Prime Minister

for generations who can say "We are the most competitive economy in Europe". And I intend to be the Prime Minister who builds on that success after we've won the next election.

The sharpest element of the European debate is the possibility of a single European currency. We Conservatives are in grown-up politics. We know that where Britain's national interest is at stake Britain's national voice must be heard... We must play a full part in that debate.

We believe Europe must become more flexible and responsive: that the only realistic future is as a partnership of nations, not a United States of Europe. But some of our partners do see the future of Europe as ever closer political as well as economic integration. We don't believe this is practical. Nor, to

be frank, desirable. It is not the Europe we joined and it's not a Europe we can accept.

The Union, Parliament, our voting system. It is naive to think that radical change would be easy or risk-free. And it's revealing to look at Labour's plans. Their priority in the first year... would be to gerrymander the British constitution.

They're avid for more parliaments, more assemblies, more regional assemblies. Their policy is in chaos. What a message. "Vote Labour - for more politicians, more bureaucrats, more taxes, more regulations, more tampering, more meddling, more authoritarianism." If that is the New Gospel, then give me the old religion.

It's been the week the Tory family came together - to renew the family contract with the British nation... The well-being of the Conservative Party is more important than any individual member of it.

### Which is more important? Your car or your life?

What do you pay for your car insurance each month? Okay, divide by two. Now call us to find out how much life insurance that will buy.

## Virgin direct

personal financial service

### 0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 9am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct marketing group. Virgin Direct only markets its own products. For your security, all telephone calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.

**QUICKLY**  
**Nobel prize for bishop**  
The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the bishop of East Africa and a resistance leader, a decision that will embarrass the Indonesian government. Page 13

**Less for female lawyers**  
Male solicitors are paid significantly more than their female counterparts. A survey found that among salaried partners, men typically earned £37,000 compared with £32,000 for women. Page 9

**Malan cleared**  
The former South African defence minister, Magnus Malan and four other generals from the apartheid era, were cleared of murder and conspiracy charges. Page 13

## Today, the sun will blaze darkly

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

Today, the words "weather permitting" will matter a great deal. At 3.15pm, the best solar eclipse since 1961 should be visible across much of England and Wales. During today's partial eclipse, starting at about 1.50pm and ending at about 4.25pm, up to 60 per cent of the sun will be covered by the Moon's shadow passing over the Earth.

The worry is that cloudy weather could spoil the event - or, conversely, that clear skies might tempt people to look directly at the sun. "It's the sun's infra-red rays which do the damage," said Duncan Copp of Mill Hill Observatory in London. "Nobody should look at the sun through any sort of optical instrument such as a telescope or pair of binoculars."

Even looking directly at the sun through improvised filters - like fogged photographic film, smoked glass or a bin liner - is dangerous, as the heat will quickly burn your retina and damage will be permanent. The only sure way is to view the sun indirectly, through a pinhole camera, or else in a reflection such as a windscreen or puddle.

The most direct view will be over the Internet, at the Society for Popular Astronomy's World Wide Web page, at <http://www.u-net.com/ph/spa/eclipse/partial.htm>. But the Society also suggests this alternative pinhole projector.

1) Take an empty cereal packet. 2) Make a small pinhole in one of the shorter sides, a couple of inches from the open top. 3) Point the pinhole towards the sun and look inside the box. A small image of the sun will be cast on to the opposite inside wall.

On 11 August 1999, people in Devon and Cornwall will see a total eclipse of the sun - the last occurring until 2081.

"The Sky at Night", the *Long Weekend*, page 2

CONTENTS	
The Broadsheet	Business & City . . . 20-23
Comment . . . . .	17-19
Foreign News . . . .	12-15
Home News . . . . .	2-10
Sport . . . . .	24-30
The Long Weekend	Arts & Books . . . . . 4-7
Crossword . . . . .	29
Gardens . . . . .	16
Property . . . . .	18
Travel . . . . .	9
Weather . . . . .	2



## news

**INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY**  
**Buy it half-price tomorrow and read**



**Gotcha!!!**  
 Newspaper editor, 40, is victim of cruel hoax



**Death of the state**  
 Part 3 of the Cultural Revolution: jobs, politics and law and order



**Nice work**  
 How uniforms have become the height of fashion

**INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY special offer**

**half-price tomorrow 50p**

Reader's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WHOLESALE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RETAILER'S BOX NO: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of the Independent on Sunday 13 October 1996 and pay only 50p (Home delivery customers have until 10 November '96 to present this voucher to your newspaper).  
 To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for the Independent on Sunday 13 October 1996 (reader pays 50p). To receive your normal terms, plus a 2p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 13 November 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for the Independent on Sunday only.  
 Offer valid in UK, ROI, Channel Isles & Isle of Man only.  
 If you have any problems redemitting your voucher, please call 0800 666 821.

To the Wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 50p (R.O.I. 50p). This includes 2p retailer handling allowance per voucher. To receive your credit together with the wholesaler's handling allowance, please send to: Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orion Court, Cranee Farm Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 3DB. Ref: 105/50P



9 506480 100500

**THE INDEPENDENT on Monday**

**only 10p**

Reader's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 WHOLESALE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RETAILER'S BOX NO: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of The Independent on Monday 14 October 1996 and pay only 10p (Home delivery customers have until 11 November '96 to present this voucher to your newspaper).  
 To the Retailer: Please accept this voucher as part payment for The Independent on Monday 14 October 1996 (reader pays 10p). To receive your normal terms plus a 2p handling fee, please provide your wholesaler's name and your box no. and return the completed voucher to your wholesaler by 13 November 1996. This voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer - it is valid for The Independent only.  
 Offer valid in UK, ROI, Channel Isles & Isle of Man only.  
 If you have any problems redemitting your voucher, please call 0800 666 821.

To the Wholesaler: Please credit the returning retailer with 10p (R.O.I. 10p). This includes 2p retailer handling allowance per voucher. To receive your credit together with the wholesaler's handling allowance, please send to: Voucher Redemption Ltd, 17 Orion Court, Cranee Farm Rd, Basildon, Essex SS14 3DB. Ref: 57/10P



9 506480 120500

# Grammar school plans dropped

FRAN ABRAMS  
 Education Correspondent

Ministers have backed away from plans to push through the introduction of new grammar schools, government officials admitted last night.

A leaked draft of the contents of a Bill to be published later this month shows that proposals to force discussions about full-scale selection wherever a new school is built have been dropped.

Gillian Shepherd, the Secretary of State for Education, will

also have the right to step in and prevent schools from selecting a proportion of their pupils if it would leave some children without places.

Last night Labour accused Mrs Shepherd of taking a "two-faced" approach, telling her party's conference that she was pressing on with plans for more grammar schools while quietly allowing her officials to water them down.

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said officials would consult local communi-

ties on what kinds of schools they wanted.

"They will have to consider what's best in their view for the area... Where the supply of school places is tight, selection could mean there would be some pupils who couldn't find a school place," he said.

A White Paper published in June said the agency which funds opted-out schools would be required to consider building grant-maintained grammar schools wherever extra places were needed. However, the measure is not mentioned in

provisional proposals for the new Bill, which have been passed to *The Independent*.

The provisional proposals do say, however, that all schools must consider the case for introducing selection every year, and that would-be grammar schools will have the "right of appeal" if their local authorities try to block them.

Mrs Shepherd told delegates at her party's Bournemouth conference on Thursday that the government wanted to encourage more grammar schools "in response to parental demand".

But, last night, a teachers' union leader said surveys showed that most parents did not want more grammar schools.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said ministers had clearly realised that plans for a grammar school in every town would not be popular. "Parents won't be keen on it," he said. "It is a very low priority."

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said: "Gillian Shepherd would appear

to have been taking a two-faced approach. While assuring the Prime Minister that his plans for a grammar school in every town will be delivered, she has quietly got her officials to drop one of the key ways in which the Tories imagined that this might be delivered," he said.

A spokesman for the Funding Agency for Schools said it had asked parents for their views on selection when consulting on a new school in Epsom and Ewell, Surrey. It had been told emphatically that they were not interested.

## Joseph's poem takes the title

DAVID LISTER

Jenny Joseph's poem "Warning" has been chosen as the nation's favourite post-war poem in a BBC poll.

It is the second time the poem, which describes the delights of a reckless and irresponsible old age, has proved popular with BBC voters. In a poll last year to find the favourite poem of all time (won by Rudyard Kipling's "If") "Warning" was the only poem in the top 20 to have been written by a living poet.

The producer of *The Nation's Favourite Poems*, Daisy Goodwin, said: "It is a delightful, engaging poem which speaks to everyone who is facing the prospect of growing older with a sinking heart."

The top 10 poems were: "Warning"; "Not waving but drowning" by Stevie Smith; "Do not go gentle into that good night" by Dylan Thomas; "This be the verse" by Philip Larkin; "The Whitsun Weddings" by Philip Larkin; "Stop all the clocks" by W H Auden; "Christmas" by John Betjeman; "Fern Hill" by Dylan Thomas; "Let me die a young man's death" by Roger McGough; "A subaltern's love song" by John Betjeman.



Mute appeal: The Women Together peace rally outside Belfast City Hall yesterday, which included a minute's silence

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

## Silent crowds gather by jaded symbol of peace

JOJO MOYES  
 Belfast

The wooden dove, held aloft on a stick above the word "Peace", had clearly seen better days. Its faded white feathers had been touched-up in places and the stick was bound round with old insulation tape. But was impossible to ignore.

It seemed tired, a little jaded as if, like the 2,000-strong crowd outside Belfast's City Hall yesterday, it had seen one peace rally too many.

Despite the high turn-out, and the uplifting singing of local children, yesterday's "Count The Cost" peace vigil, held under heavy grey skies, had a subdued air as news filtered through of the deaths of Darren Murray, 11, hit by a van during sectarian exchanges in Portadown, and Warrant Officer James Bradwell, a victim of the Lisburn bombings.

Nuala Noblett, chairwoman of Women Together, which had

organised the rally, said that the attack had been a "cruel, calculating act aimed at pushing us to the brink of civil unrest. We cannot lose hope although we have been truly tested."

During the half-hour vigil, the mixed crowd, which had congregated slowly from the city centre's shops and businesses, stood silently in the temporary square while they heard the testimonies of three victims of sectarian violence.

Mark Kelly had lost both his legs at the age of 18, after a "warning" bomb was placed under his chair in a pub. Yvonne Cromie's son was 17 when he was shot dead in a sectarian "tit-for-tat" murder.

But it was a tearful Maria McShane who left the most lasting impression. Eighteen years ago, pregnant, she lost an eye after a car bomb. Her son survived only to die 18 months ago, aged 17, shot dead by the UVF.

DAVID MCKITTRICK  
 Ireland Correspondent

The death of Warrant Officer James Bradwell, the soldier who was grievously injured in Monday's double IRA bomb attack on the Army's Lisburn headquarters, yesterday produced many expressions of personal sympathy and political condemnation.

The soldier died just before 7am yesterday in a Belfast hospital. His wife was at his bedside.

WO Bradwell was injured by both of Monday's explosions. He was apparently very close to the first car bomb, in a car park, and then a short time later was further injured by the second bomb. This went off near the medical centre where he was being treated.

He suffered serious burns to up to 60 per cent of his body together with a skull fracture and other injuries.

Aged 43 and from Gateshead, he was married

with three children and had two grandchildren. He was on his first tour of duty in Northern Ireland with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He had served in the Army for 19 years, winning the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for Exemplary Service.

His stepmother, Jean, said yesterday: "It is just two months since he was posted to Northern Ireland from Germany. We were worried about him but he reassured us when he phoned at the weekend."

WO Bradwell's father Walter, 66, who lives near Sunderland, said: "It has come as horrible news and I feel bitter that this should have happened when everyone had been hoping that peace had come to Northern Ireland."

"I was very proud of Jim and his work as a soldier. He really loved the army - it was something he lived and breathed. But he had been looking forward to finishing in

a few years and starting a new life back in his home area, and it is tragic that he should have been prevented from doing so in this way."

It was confirmed yesterday that some surveillance equipment at army headquarters was not working properly at the time of the bomb attacks. One of the closed-circuit cameras had either stopped running or had no tape in it.

WO Bradwell's death brought a fresh wave of condemnation of the bombings. Extending sympathy to his family, the Taoiseach, John Bruton, demanded of the IRA: "If there is a new ceasefire will it be just a conditional ceasefire like the last one or will it hold in all circumstances? That is the question that the republican movement must now answer."

David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party said the soldier's death underlined the fact that Sinn Féin and the IRA had excluded themselves from political talks.

## significant shorts

### Accountant stole £237,000 from Church

An accountant who funded a life of luxury by stealing plundering more than £237,000 from the Church of England was yesterday jailed for three years. Dean Bailey, 34, bought £100 opera tickets, a box at Lord's cricket ground and took a Caribbean holiday with the money he embezzled while working for the Diocese of London. Southwark Crown Court was told that Bailey, of Bethnal Green, east London, cooked the books and forged signatures on cheques to cover his crimes.

### Anger at Dunblane gun homework

Parents reacted furiously last night after a little girl who was shot and wounded during Thomas Hamilton's rampage at Dunblane came home with a colouring-in sheet depicting a gun. Five-year-old Amy Hutcheson, who was hit in the knee when Hamilton shot dead 16 of her Primary One classmates and their teacher, told her mother she did not want to touch the worksheet. It included a picture of a pistol and the letters G and N, with the middle letter to be filled in. Amy's mother Veronica, 32, said: "I found it very distressing, and I didn't want anyone else upset. They're all shocked. I dread to think how the families who lost a child would feel if a brother or a sister brought this home," she said.

### Strike threat over violent pupil

Teachers at a Lancashire secondary school are threatening strike action after a boy who assaulted a member of staff was returned to lessons. The boy, in his second year at the school, was expelled after attacking a teacher who stepped in to break up a fight between him and another pupil.

### Rabies killed teenager

The teenager who contracted rabies while in Nigeria died of the disease, a coroner said yesterday. The 19-year-old Nigerian, who has not been named, died at Coppetts Wood Hospital in north London. An inquest will open next Friday.

### Labour MP dies of cancer

Terry Patchett, Labour MP for Barnsley East, died yesterday after a long fight against cancer. Mr Patchett, 56, had a majority of almost 25,000. The Labour leader, Tony Blair, said: "Terry was the sort of MP on whom the Labour party has always depended. *Obituary: page 16*

### Post workers vote on strikes

Postal workers will start voting today on whether to continue with the campaign of industrial action which led to mail deliveries being crippled in the summer.

The Communication Workers Union expects the 130,000 staff to vote in favour of continuing the strikes to strengthen its opposition to a proposed pay and working practices package. The result is due at the end of the month.

### Asians bank on secrecy

A secret banking system used among Britain's Asian and Chinese communities is being used to launder "dirty" money from drugs and crime, a conference on financial fraud in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was told yesterday. Police have uncovered a number of criminals who use the process - known as "hawallah" to the Asians and "Chip-Chop" to the Chinese - to "clean" illegally obtained money. *Jason Bennett*

### Boycott to edit 'Independent on Sunday'



Rosie Boycott, (above) the former editor of the British edition of *Esquire* magazine, has been named editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, becoming the first woman to edit a quality broadsheet. She replaces Peter Wilby. Ms Boycott, who founded *Spare Rib*, said: "I have always admired the *Independent on Sunday*. It is a newspaper which values quality writing, the truth and integrity and has never sacrificed those principles."



### 'The Eye'

The *Independent's* new guide to the arts, entertainment and television is launched today. If for any reason you do not have a copy of *The Eye* in your four-section newspaper, contact the number below and we will ensure that you receive a free copy as soon as possible. Phone 0171 293 2220

### The Offer

Take a copy of today's *Eye* to the Lumiere Cinema, St Martin's Lane, London, tomorrow and win two free seats for the new Cedric Klapisch film *When The Cat's Away*. For details see page 67 of *The Eye*.

Just roll it round your tongue.

W. & J. GRAHAM'S  
 THE PORT OF AUTHORITY



# Major guns for the self-helpers

ANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

A concerted election campaign effort to undermine public trust in Tony Blair was opened up by John Major yesterday. In repeated attacks on the Labour leader, Mr Major patronised his opponent as "young Mr Blair" a man who had never done a "real job" of work in his life, and accused him of using the language of crusade, dream and passion as a cover for lack of substance.

"At the election," Mr Major told a jam-packed conference at Bournemouth, "there's a central question. It's this: who can be best trusted with the future?" Labour had tried to persuade people that they were the ones to be trusted because they had changed. But Mr Major said: "It simply won't do for Mr Blair to say, 'Look, I'm not a socialist any more. Now can I be Prime Minister, please?' Sorry, Tony. The job's taken."

But Mr Major's ebullient self-confidence - lapped up by the conference with the traditional ovation and repeated choruses of *Land of Hope and Glory* - was backed up by a package of well-tailored policy measures designed to trump Mr Blair's five core policy pledges.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said last night: "Just like every other speech in Bournemouth, John Major has nothing new to say. It was just the same old story, fake unity and crude attacks on Tony Blair. No one will be impressed."

Nevertheless, Mr Major and the Tory media machine were keen to promote a continuing commitment to an annual, real-terms increase in spending on hospitals, and a reaffirmation of old plans to recreate cottage



Know your demon: a participant at the Conservative's conference shows where danger lies with a Tony Blair mask

Photograph: David Rose

hospitals through an expansion of local doctors' surgeries.

On law and order, Mr Major offered an attack on truancy, and announced experimental

plans to put electronic tags on "young tearaways", imposing curfews on offenders aged from 10 to 15 years.

"If we know a young trouble-maker is out there, night after night, disturbing the peace and commit-

ting crimes, we'll make sure the courts have the power to order him to stay put. At home, and off the streets," he said.

As for education, Mr Major repeated that the Tories would offer more choice, with more grant-maintained schools, specialist schools and selection. If parents wanted them, grammar schools in every town, too.

Announcing something close to his own heart, Mr Major also said that "legendary England cricketer" Sir Colin Cowdrey had agreed to help set up a team of sporting ambassadors - "widely drawn from the best role models in sports, our leading athletes, past and present" - who would visit schools, inspiring a love of sport.

Turning to work and welfare, Mr Major said that people must

accept responsibility for themselves. "Dependency must be about needs, not a culture," he told the conference. "I can't stand the welfare cheats. I'll tell you why. They deprive those in real need."

"We're determined that taxpayers' money goes where it's needed. Our task is to build a welfare system for the 21st century. A system for a self-help

society - not a system for a help-yourself society."

Last night, as he left the Bournemouth conference to the applause of lingering representatives, Mr Major said that the week's successful conference had confounded the doom-mongers. "This is a conference of a party that's going to win," he said. "And everybody here knows it."

## Tired party does its best to varnish over the cracks

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Tory grass-roots supporters left Bournemouth yesterday declaring that they were more united and that John Major had regressed their will to win the general election.

"I am motivated. I will be out canvassing in the next election," said Bobbie Jones, chairwoman of the Eastleigh Tories, who is fighting to regain the seat lost to the Liberal Democrats in a by-election after the death of the Tory MP Stephen Milligan in a bizarre sex act.

Dame Margaret Fry - Emma Nicholson's Tory president before the MP defected to the Liberal Democrats in Devon West and Torridge - was also emphatic about the success of the Tories' conference week in Bournemouth.

"I have been working for the party for 50 years, and this

will go down as one of our greatest conferences. We are going back to our constituencies with even greater enthusiasm."

But do annual party conferences make any difference in the long run?

It is in seats like theirs that the 1997 general election will be won or lost. In 1986 - in the

so-called *electoral revolution* - the Tories arrived in Bournemouth looking demoralised after a successful Labour conference. They left fizzing with ideas, and went on to win a third term under Margaret Thatcher.

The turn-around was achieved by a barrage of policy announcements. Ten years later, the Government looks tired - the announcements of the past week were stocktaking measures for the last Queen's Speech of the Parliament.

After 17 years in office, party strategists are less interested

in presenting the Conservatives as Maoists, committed to continuous revolution. The main item on the agenda this week was unity.

Baroness Thatcher set the tone by giving her successor her unequivocal backing with the order to their supporters: "Stop the talking - let's get cracking."

Mr Major's platform was for Lady Thatcher became the leitmotif for the week. The Prime Minister's gesture of support for his Chancellor - holding hands - was another. The message to the Euro-sceptics was clear: I am backing Clarke and there will be no change of policy on Europe this side of a general election.

Former minister Robert Hughes, one of Mr Major's campaign allies, said yesterday: "The turning-point was the Chancellor's speech, because he put to the conference two messages they did not want

to hear - continuing the policy on Europe, and damping down expectations on tax cuts."

Mr Major sought to contrast his own dogged style with Tony Blair's slickness. Michael Portillo - one of the Cabinet Euro-sceptics who led the calls for unity this week - said: "His sincerity oozed out of his speech."

The Major speechwriters have no need for the playwright Sir Ronald Miller, who supplied the best lines for Margaret Thatcher. A Miller thriller, called *The Coat of Varnish*, will be playing at the end of the pier in Bournemouth next week.

Bournemouth and Mr Major's speech have given the Tories a fighting chance. But if Mr Clarke fails to deliver some cuts in taxes in his Budget in a few weeks' time, the gloss over the new show of unity in the Tory Party will peel before Christmas.

It all conjured up an image of young partygoers, dressed in shirtsleeves exchanging copies of *John Major In The Round* videos, and singing to the sound of Dame Hazel's "Greatest Hits". By and large the conference utterly failed to grasp in any way what was going on out there in this chronically insecure Britain of ours.

And here's another image. On Wednesday I found Tony Marlow, Euro-phobe MP (one of the whippersnappers), sitting on a sunlit bench outside the Highcliff Hotel, overlooking the blue sea.

"To you and me it would simply be a lovely day by the sea. To Tony it was a perfect vantage point to watch for the sails of the marauding Spaniard, or to listen out for the drone of the Heinkel, or the wind-carried sounds of 'Vive l'Empire'."

His eyes narrowed as he waited for the European ship to come in. And what, Dame Hazel Byford, are you going to do when it does?

Surviving on the poverty line. Page 8

## Tinker? No thanks, we'd rather settle down and light the Aga

It had, said the party official to the masses, been a very successful conference. "And why," he asked, "has it been so successful?" Unity? John Major? A Labour-smashing performance? No. "Because it has been chaired by Dame Hazel Byford."

And he was absolutely right. I do not really know who Dame Hazel is, but I have a mental image of her, and if it's accurate then this week was, in a very real sense, the triumph of the Dame Hazel Byford, the victory of conservatism over right radicalism, of getting by over crusading, of twinning over armour.

Indeed, Dame Hazel and her pals met the disciples of



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Newt Gingrich and overcame. During the Prime Minister's Hazel speech - holding a copy in my hand - I walked along the empty corridors of the Conference Centre, and his flat, declamatory tones would waft up to me from occasional ventilation shafts, or from around corners.

And this is what he said, more or less. "Once we were radicals. But those times have gone. It is time to stop tinkering with things, time to settle down, to play golf, set up a sports academy and carry on carrying on. Not for us passion, not for us destiny, not for us dangerous dreams of altered states. Welcome in the age of Joanna Trollope and Colin Cowdrey. Agas and untampered balls."

"Now we will conserve. Conserve the union, conserve our institutions (we've destroyed the ones we didn't like), conserve the health service, but more than anything else - in order to conserve everything else - we must conserve us."

Is this realistic? It does seem to entail spending a lot more public money, while cutting taxes at the same time - a return to the good old Byfordian days of stop-go. But then things are often contradictory.

This was the PM on parental choice on education: "More selection? They'll have it. Why should governments say no, if parents think it's right for their children?" But selection is not about parental choice. All parents would choose to be selected, but only a few can be. You see, John and Hazel, the two principles are fundamentally antagonistic. And sooner rather than later people are going to find this out.

You can always pretend, of course. On Thursday afternoon there was a badly attended

### WOOLWORTHS

Product Recall Notice

Can Opener (99p)

Reference Codes: 330 D 0210 - White

330 D 2520 - White, 330 D 2530 - Green



Woolworths has learned of a potential fault in a side winding can opener which under certain circumstances could cause can rims to splinter when being opened.

In the interests of customer safety and as a precautionary measure the can opener has been withdrawn from sale in all Woolworths stores.

Any customer who has purchased this product since May, 1996 should return it to their nearest store, where a full refund will be given. A receipt is not necessary.

# Dixons

## TOP BRAND SALE

ON EXCLUSIVE MODELS

UP TO 5 FREE CDs

ON SELECTED SONY PORTABLE CD SYSTEMS

PORTABLE CD SYSTEMS

SAVE UP TO £70

SONY CFDA44

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- AM/FM digital radio
- Sleep timer 90 mins
- Mega Bass
- Draw loading CD
- LAMER STORES

£179.99

MATSUI CD66

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- AM/FM Radio
- Programmable CD
- Auto stop
- VHS CASS

£59.99

aiwa CSD-EX310

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- Remote control
- AM/FM digital radio
- Auto-reverse
- VHS CASS
- FREE AIWA CD CASE

£124.99

PHILIPS AZ677

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- AM/FM digital radio
- Remote control
- 3 band graphic equaliser
- Sleep timer
- VHS CASS

£129.99

JVC RC5050

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- AM/FM digital radio
- Remote control
- 10 station presets
- Clock/timer
- VHS CASS
- LAMER STORES

£139.98

Panasonic SZ-DT000

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- AM/FM digital radio
- Detachable speakers
- 4 band graphic equaliser
- VHS CASS

£159.99

SONY CFD151

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- Remote control
- AM/FM radio
- Mega Bass
- 20 track memory
- CD to tape synchronised dubbing

Was £129.99

£119.99

SONY M553

PORTABLE CD SYSTEM

- AM/FM Radio
- Auto reverse cassette deck
- Clock/timer function
- Draw loading CD

Was £129.99

£129.99

# Dixons

There's a great deal going on

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE OF PORTABLE CD-HI-FI

## news

# Election according to Mondeo man

Redditch may not seem a fashionable town, but for the election strategists it is a critical battleground.

This new constituency, carved out of mid-Worcestershire, has a notional Conservative majority of 3,000 and Labour needs a swing of just over 3 per cent to take a seat they must win if they are to have a realistic chance of forming the next government.

In the 1992 local elections, Conservatives polled 48.07 per cent of the vote in local elections; Labour 41.95 per cent and the Liberal Democrats just under 10 per cent. This May, Labour gained 55 per cent against only 26 per cent for the Conservatives.

The tree-lined wards of Matchborough and Winyates are crucial areas filled with many of the skilled workers the parties are fighting over.

This is where *The Independent* panel live in their own houses, owning decent cars and holding down good jobs.

Some are already lost to the Tories, it seems. The memory of unemployment, perceived health cuts and once-high interest rates are still too strong. Education, too, is seen as a key factor, but Europe was hardly mentioned as an issue.

Mark Redfern, 29, is an engineer, married with his own semi-detached house. Unlike Tony Blair's Midlands voter of 1992 - whose decision to vote Tory convinced the current leader that that poll was lost - he drives a Ford Granada. He has always voted Tory and describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", but will not vote Conservative next time.

"I cannot afford to be a Tory any more, they are taxing me to the hilt."

"My wife, Jane, is expecting again and is having to give up her job because we can't afford the child care."

Mr Redfern says he is impressed by Mr Blair and is prepared to give him his vote.

Indeed, none of the 12, all Conservative sympathisers in the past, say they are sure they will vote for John Major next time.

Sierra owner, Adrian Blick, a 30-year-old self-employed builder, will also switch his vote to Labour.

During the recession, he almost lost his home and the pressure caused him and his then fiancée to split.

"I feel let down by the

This conference season, the political parties have been concentrating on a relatively small number of middle-class, middle-England voters whom they believe will decide who wins the next

election. Tony Blair told the story of how in 1992 he met a Midlands man washing his Sierra who convinced him that Labour was no longer the party of the aspirational classes. These days,

they are as likely to be Mondeo man, or Granada woman, but are they convinced by Blair's New Labour party? Michael Streeter went to Redditch to meet the Mondeo people who will form

*The Independent's* election panel. We shall return to them again as the General Election approaches to see how they respond to each of the politicians.

whom she applauds for distancing the party from the unions.

Susan Lovett, 38, a former sales consultant with two children, lives in a smart house and drives a Ford Granada. A Tory voter in 1992, now she is not so sure and regards Mr Major as "too weak".

However, she's unpersuaded yet that Mr Blair can produce the concrete policies on education, the NHS, law and order and Europe that she wants. If he does not, she will "probably" vote Conservative again.

Toolmaker Andrew Osciak, 45, also sees crime as a big issue. After giving Mr Major his vote last time, he says he is now in two minds. But neither is he impressed by Mr Blair, whom he feels has not been positive enough to persuade him to vote Labour, as he once did in the past.

Steven Marriott, 28, a radio frequency engineer, who drives a Montego, says he would have voted for Margaret Thatcher had he been old enough, but voted Liberal Democrat in protest at the last election.

A period of unemployment and time spent on training schemes of "no benefit", turned him away from Mr Major, whom he regards as too weak. But he's also worried that Labour may have a hidden agenda and would prefer Mr Blair to be "more honest" about his intentions on taxation and the economy.

Paramedic Lionel Baird, 52, drives a Renault 19, does not know if he will vote Tory again and is worried about the investments he's made to safeguard his future. Mr Baird is unhappy at the state of the NHS and believes that Mr Blair has modernised the Labour Party, but says in the end he will vote for whoever will best secure economic growth and stability.

The Liberal Democrats also won plaudits from our group, but many view them as too weak and unlikely to form the next government.

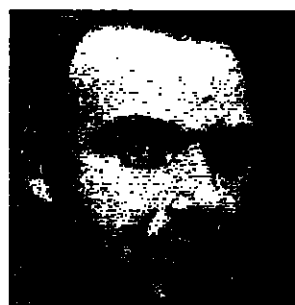
As the views of those above and the rest of the panel change, *The Independent* will bring them to you, in the run up to an election which will determine the British government for the next millennium.

The message so far is clear: while many may not vote Tory again, Mr Blair's New Labour is not guaranteed their vote either.

The battle has begun.



I cannot afford to be a Tory, they are taxing me to the hilt  
**Mark Redfern**



I feel let down by the Tories - the country needs a change  
**Adrian Blick**



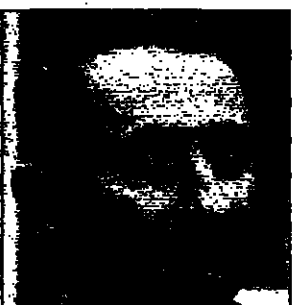
I will vote Tory unless Mr Blair can produce concrete policies  
**Susan Lovett**



Mr Blair has not been positive enough to make me vote Labour  
**Andrew Osciak**



I'd prefer Labour to be more honest on tax and economy  
**Steven Marriott**



I will vote for whoever will secure growth in the economy  
**Lionel Baird**

Tories," he says. Although not personally keen on New Labour, Mr Blick thinks the country needs a change. "I would rather pay slightly higher taxes to know there will be a bed for me in the hospital."

Denise Sparkes, a dressmaker who has two young children and owns a Nissan Micra, is angry with the Tories, for whom she voted in 1992, but is not sure that she will vote for Mr Blair.

Ms Sparkes wants to hear more definite policies, first on the areas she feels most strongly about - health and education, recurring themes among *The Independent* dozen. She liked Mr Major's con-

ference speech but along with most of the group, says she is not really influenced by party conferences and is more interested in detailed policy.

"They are just beauty parades, just for show," she says.

One definite defector to Labour is Linda Middleton, 41, who works in a supermarket and owns her own Ford car.

One of her sons has just gone to university and she feels students get less now than ever

before. She adds: "What is happening to the NHS is also terrifying."

She could not have voted for Neil Kinnock's Old Labour, liked John Smith's the best, but will still vote for Mr Blair.

## Orthodox Jews confront dilemma over egg donors

ANDREW BROWN and LIZ HUNT

A fertility clinic in Nottingham is appealing for Jewish egg donors. The appeal, the first of its kind in Britain, raises difficult ethical questions for Orthodox Jews, who are likely to be worried about the origin of the eggs they receive.

The appeal has been prompted by the growing number of infertile Jewish women coming forward for treatment who refuse to accept non-Jewish eggs. Reform and Liberal Jews are less worried, since they take the view that a child raised in a Jewish womb will by definition become Jewish.

Dr Margaret Jacob, a Liberal rabbi who is also a medical doctor, said yesterday: "As progressive Jews, we consider that babies adopted into Jewish families are Jewish, so egg do-

nation would not be a problem for us."

But for some Orthodox women the problem is acute. For the Orthodox, Jewishness is transmitted only through biological mothers. It is not clear from traditional Jewish teaching whether a mother is the woman whose egg grows into a baby or the woman whose womb nourishes it, if the two roles are separated as they are in IVF.

Dr Simon Fishel, director of Nurture, the fertility unit at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, who is Jewish, said yesterday: "Women ask for Jewish sperm for insemination so why should they not want Jewish eggs? But it does raise some interesting issues. We are not talking about skin colour or racial features but about Jewishness and what it is. Is it a race, or a community, or a feeling. There isn't a Jewish

gene that we know about so why should it matter? But it does and I think it is something for the individual to decide. We are probably talking about dozens of women nationally."

"There are patients who are really suffering infertility - they see in the Bible the great commandment to go forth and multiply, and Rachel's cry to God, 'Give me a child else I die.'"

Some rabbis insist that the identity of the donor be known; and some also prohibit sisters giving eggs to each other, a prohibition which Dr Fishel finds incomprehensible. But, he said, there was no general line, even among the Orthodox rabbinate. "Some rabbis will say that anonymous donation is frowned upon but not outlawed. Others will say it is both frowned upon and outlawed. But patients come from particular communities, each

with one rabbi, and it is that rabbi's views which are decisive."

Eggs for women who cannot produce their own are scarce generally, particularly among ethnic minorities, and several clinics regularly appeal for A&P or Afro-Caribbean women to become donors. The women cannot be paid for supplying eggs - other than a small sum for expenses - so doctors rely on the altruism of fertile women. The procedure is time-consuming, painful, and poses a small risk to the health of the donor.

The Nurture appeal will initially focus on Jewish communities in Nottingham, Leicester and Sheffield and will be "proactive". Dr Fishel said. Posters and leaflets will be distributed throughout Jewish communities and staff from the fertility clinic will visit synagogues, women's groups, university groups, and surgeries.

## Briton dies in coach crash

A British woman was killed and 45 other British holidaymakers injured early yesterday when their coach was involved in a crash with a car in Mallorca.

The accident occurred when a car skidded in front of their coach, causing it to swerve off the road and overturn.

The dead woman and an 11-year-old boy who suffered leg injuries had to be cut from the wreckage by emergency services.

Spanish police named the dead woman as Dawn Mary Parker, aged 30. The car driver, a 22-year-old Spanish man, also died.

Holiday company Sunworld said 13 holidaymakers were still in four hospitals in the island's capital, Palma.

The accident happened just before 1am local time, near Luc Mayor, close to Campos, about 12 miles north of Palma.

The tourists had been to an "extravaganza" at Son Amar, a club where they were treated to dinner and a show.

They were returning to their

hotels on the east coast of the island, in and around Calas de Mallorca when a Volkswagen Golf skidded into the path of the coach, hitting the front of the vehicle, Spanish police said.

The coach was carrying 57 Britons, one of them a representative from Sunworld.

A number of the holidaymakers, whose ages ranged from five to 93, suffered minor injuries, while 11 passengers escaped unhurt.

Director of operations for Sunworld, Manny Fontenla-Novoa, said: "The passengers are still pretty shaken up. Obviously, they have gone through a fairly horrific experience."

"We are trying our best to help them. Those that want to come home can. The first may be able to fly back today although obviously we don't want anyone travelling in shock and are seeking medical advice on that."

Friends and relatives were given an emergency number to ring - 0113 236 1777.

## 'Contact' mother must stay in jail

A mother jailed for repeatedly refusing to obey a court order for contact between her four-year-old daughter and her ex-partner must stay in prison, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Judge William Poulton sent the 30-year-old woman to Holloway prison for six weeks at a hearing at Canterbury Combined Court on Thursday.

He enforced a suspended sentence order after she failed to take her daughter to an arranged contact meeting with the father. It was the eighth time a contact order had been made and disobeyed.

Appeal judge Lord Justice Ward said yesterday the mother insisted her ex-partner was not the child's father, but DNA profiling had proved he was.

"The stark reality is that this is a mother who has frequently set herself on a collision course with court orders," he said. "She has been given endless opportunities to comply, with sympathetic attempts by the judges to meet her flimsy objections to

contact taking place. She spurned all those attempts."

There had been "not a single word of regret" from the mother for her disobedience. Judge Poulton had bent over backwards to see her point of view, but "eventually even his boundless patience was exhausted."

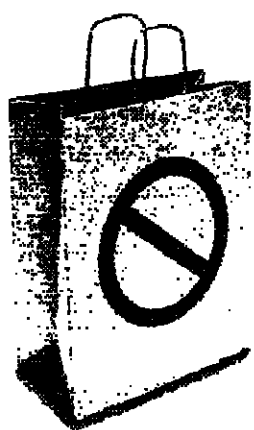
The message had to go out that there was a limit to the court's tolerance when orders were flouted.

Lord Justice Beldam said no court, except as a last resort and with the utmost reluctance, would make an order depriving a little girl of the care and emotional support of her mother.

"But in the end the court is faced with a situation in which it either has to yield to the obstinacy of the mother and back down from its own order, or it has to enforce it," he said.

The judge said it was up to the mother whether she continued to deprive her daughter and her child by another father - both now with foster parents while she is in prison - of her loving care.

"are you  
**still**  
making  
**pointless**  
purchases"



### What's the point?

Don't let valuable rewards slip through your fingers. You can gain Membership Rewards Points on virtually every purchase you make with an American Express Credit, Charge or Corporate Card - whether you're shopping in the High Street or spending abroad. Once you're enrolled, it's one of the fastest and easiest ways to earn complimentary flights, hotel nights, meals at restaurants and more.

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

**0800 700 767**



Cards



# "Not for the ordinary"

**L**uxury is a discovery, not only for the rich. It says things about those who create it and those who recognise the difference. Do you enjoy something special?

## Amazing People

The world did not need just another shampoo, conditioner or styling spray. Amazing people, John Paul DeJoria, a leading American designer and Paul Mitchell, a Scottish born champion hairdresser, chose to create a very special selection of luxury hair care products.

## Great Values

They loved life and nature. Over ten years ago they decided that their products would not be tested on animals. Both Paul and John Paul believed in high quality and in the idea of water-soluble products. They also decided that the best people to sell their fine products were professional hairdressers. Not shops and supermarkets.

## Best Results

Hairdressers can help you choose the right product for your hair. They can also show you how to obtain

the best results at home. Did you ever think that you'd find a shampoo or conditioner so good that you'd want to change your hairdresser? Paul Mitchell is only available from selected salons so if your hairdresser hasn't discovered Paul Mitchell perhaps it's time you discovered a new salon.

## The System

Paul Mitchell is a specially designed hair care system. The products complement each other to give you the best results.

## Do you deserve a little treat?

Hairdressers and their customers around the world have proved Paul and John Paul right. Now you too can discover Paul Mitchell, a little luxury every day.

Special people know what they want. Special people think 'First'. *"No thank you! Paul Mitchell please."*

Why ordinary?

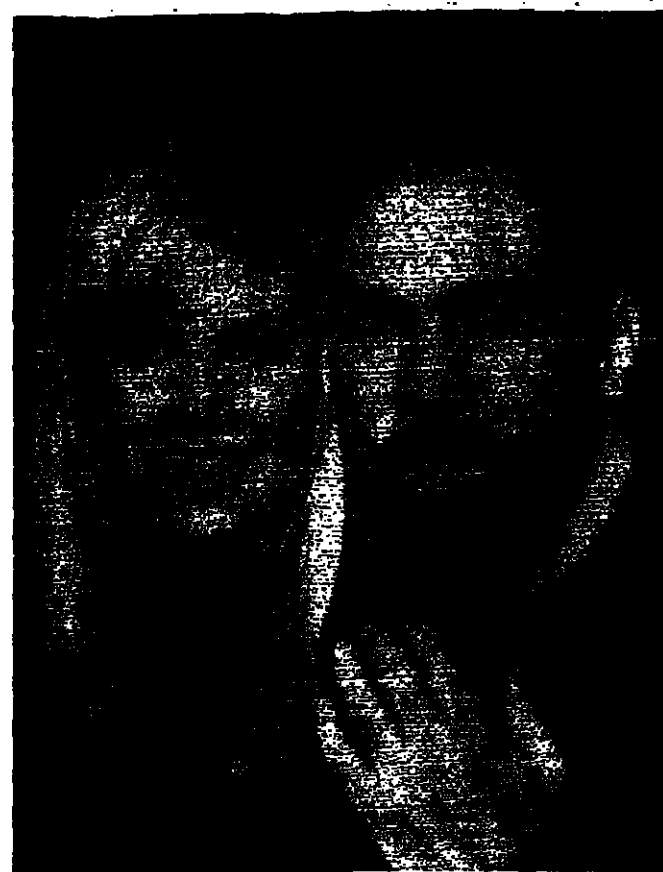
*A little luxury every day*

- Helps make styling easy
- Amazing condition and shine
- Not tested on animals
- Sensible prices
- You'll love it more each day
- Only from chosen hairdressers
- You deserve a little treat

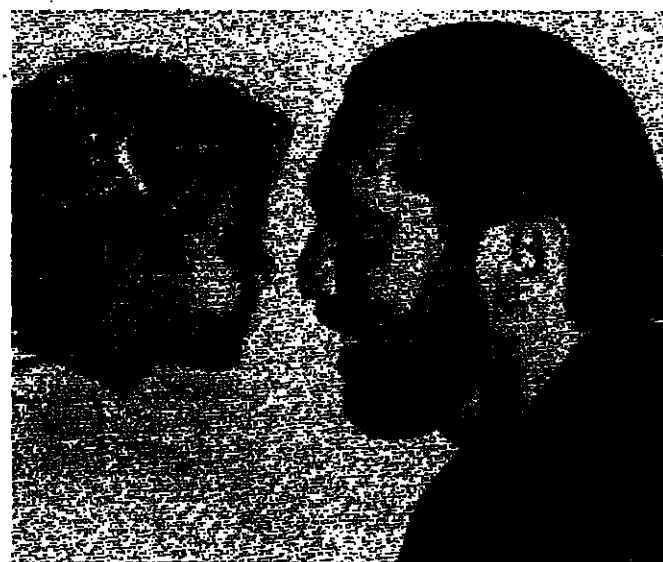
**"Special Hairdressers"**

**PAUL MITCHELL**  
LUXURY HAIR CARE

01206 696677 Monday to Friday 8.30 to 5.30



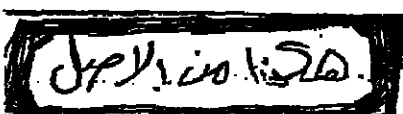
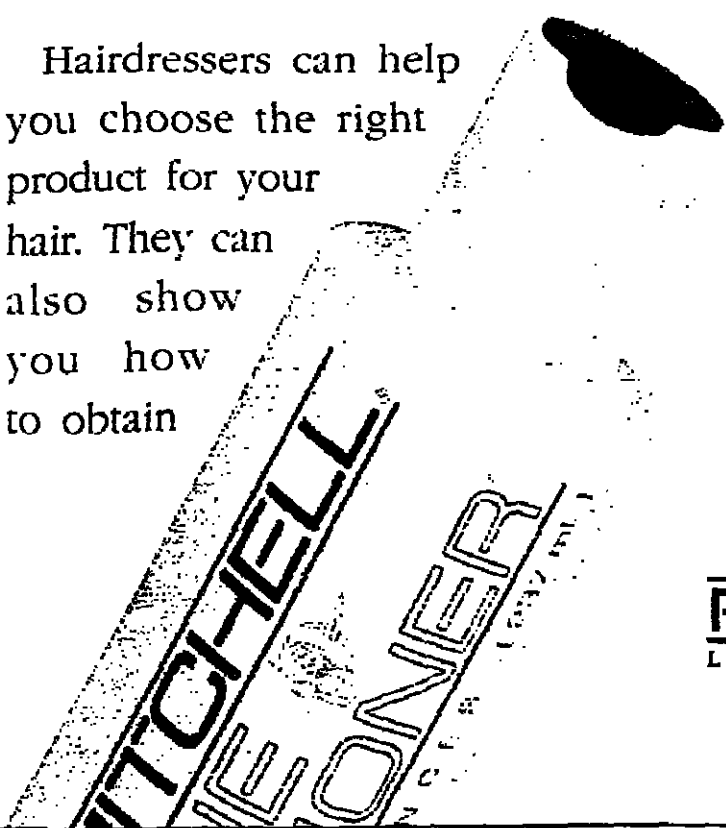
John Paul and Eloise



John Paul and Michaeline



John Paul and Eloise



**On the headline: Single parent, Annie Oliver and her son, Alex: "You have no choice, you just have to survive"** Photograph: Christopher Jones

**GLENDÄ COOPER**

"There aren't such things as sacrifices when you are a single parent. You have no choice," said Annie Oliver, who brings up her five-year-old son, Alex, by herself. "There are no conscious decisions 'I'll do that or I won't', will it be lean mince or fatty mince, M&S or Tesco's? You just have to survive."

Ms Oliver is one of 14 million people in Britain whom the Channel 4 Poverty Commission say are living in poverty. Until recently, she and Alex lived on benefits of £80.10 a week. In a good week, when there were no bills, she could afford to spend

up to £30 a week on food; in a bad week, it might be £8.

Ms Oliver looked for a job and when unemployed did voluntary work. The Charmed Poverty Commission believes that more people like her could get into work if a "maximum wage" was imposed to cap levels of high-earning employees.

While much has been made of the idea of a statutory minimum wage - currently suggested at £4.26 an hour - the group say that by also imposing a maximum wage, more people could be employed on better wages. Tackling poverty would also make the well-off up to £55 a week better off, it claimed, through reducing the benefits bill and the costs of crime.

The highest-paid was getting 150 times the lowest wage," said Professor Peter Townsend, chairman of the commission. "If the pattern [of wages] becomes excessively unequal, it can lead to a reduction in the number employed at the lower levels of pay, and the amount they are paid to fund those at the higher levels."

The group also commissioned research measuring the costs of poverty to the richest 75 per cent of the population - those on more than half the national average income. "This was not to show that the poor are a burden on society, but to highlight the financial self-interest the well-off have in reducing poverty," said the report.

The commission, which travelled around the country for four months interviewing more than 100 people, found that 14 million people in Britain now have incomes of less than half the national average and the gap between the rich and the poor has widened rapidly during the 1980s and 1990s.

Low wages were said to be the single most important cause of poverty in the UK, with one-third of those suffering from poverty in households where one person is working. More than 60 per cent of full-time workers earn less than the average earnings of £375 a week.

The commission called for the highest-paid employee in a company to be paid no more than 10-25 times the wage of the lowest-paid. This has worked adversely in companies such as John Lewis, said the commission.

Wages in 1999 were 10 per

The research found that the cost of unemployment was as high as £19.45bn [benefit paid plus the amount the government loses in taxes because someone is not in work]; measures to increase support for £1.02bn; and a cost of £15.06bn [studies show that between 40 and 70 per cent of reported crime is committed by young, unemployed men].

The commission suggested an increase in funding for schemes to help recently released prisoners back into work and housing to try to combat reoffending, more opportunities for further education and more money should be made available for good, affordable public housing. National Lottery money could be used for such projects.

The Great, the Good and the Dispossessed tonight on *Citizens* at 7.30pm.

**LIZ HUNT**  
Health Editor

**A single abortion can significantly increase the chances of a woman developing breast cancer, according to American scientists, who claim that there has been a deliberate attempt to conceal the risk for more than 40 years.**

Professor Joel Brind, from the City University of New York, and his colleagues, say that although the increase in risk is low, it may account for thousands of cases of breast cancer each year.

And they warn of a "potentially much greater impact in the next century, as the first cohort of women exposed to legal induced abortion continues to age." The scientists, who analysed

data from 28 published studies to reach an overview of the link between abortion and breast cancer, say women who are having an abortion should be told of the breast-cancer link.

They suggest that the surge in the levels of the hormone oestrogen in the first trimester of pregnancy is the most likely mechanism for increasing breast-cancer risk in a woman who subsequently undergoes a termination.

However, British experts reacted swiftly yesterday to allay alarm and downplay the findings of the study, published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. Margaret Gilchik, a consultant breast surgeon at St Mary's Hospital in London, said she was unaware

of any link. "I am surprised," she said, "because, statistically, the person who has had a termination is more likely to have had an early pregnancy, which is a known protective factor against the disease."

**Ann Furedi, director of the Birth Control Trust, said the findings should be treated with caution, and denied that the risk had been ignored by doctors.**

"Even going by this paper, the risk is very small," she said. "It shows that the risk of breast cancer might be increased by about a third after an abortion, but that has to be put in perspective. If you wait until 35 for your first pregnancy it doubles your risk of breast cancer, and if you bottle-feed instead of breast feed your baby the risk is increased by a fifth."

Professor Brind said that the link between breast cancer and abortion is seen worldwide. This, he said, ruled out the possibility of bias or variables affecting the statistical evidence.

The first published evidence of a link appeared in 1957, but the past four decades produced neither a consensus of opinion on the issue nor "a sense of urgency to arrive at one," according to the American team. Instead there seemed to be a "deliberate attempt" to play down the potential risk.

In the US, where the breast-cancer risk is about one in eight, there are 800,000 first-time abortions a year. There are around 170,000 abortions in the UK annually, and the breast-cancer rate is one in 12

Thinking of letting your property? Unsure of your rights as a tenant? Then get help with *The Which? Guide to Renting and Letting*.

Whether you're renting or letting a house, flat or room, you need to be aware of your legal rights, the financial implications of the agreement and the practicalities of the landlord/tenant relationship. This clear, concise and accessible book could help you avoid the pitfalls that await the unwary, as well as save you time, money and potentially costly legal action, too.


For landlords there's advice on:

- what sort of tenancy to grant
- rents and deposits
- grounds for possession during a tenancy and how to obtain a court order.

Tenants will discover  
 • who pays the council tax,  
 utility charges and repair bills  
 • whether they can sublet  
 • what to do about harassment or  
 threats of eviction  
 • and much, much more!

Complete with sample letting  
 agreements, this book is required  
 reading for anyone planning to  
 rent – or let – a property.

**The Which? Guide to Renting and  
 Letting** costs just £10.99 (P & P  
 FREE). To order, send your name  
 and address, the book title and  
 your payment (cheque made  
 payable to Which? Ltd or credit  
 card number with expiry date) to  
 Which?, PO Box 99, Dept 99,  
 100 Brooklands Drive, Basingstoke,  
 Hants RG24 1TR. Orders are  
 normally despatched within 14  
 days, however please allow up to  
 28 days for delivery. Full  
 refund if not satisfied.



[illegible][illegible][illegible]



# Solicitors shamed by inequality of salaries

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Legal Affairs Editor

The first-ever Law Society survey of solicitors' salaries in England and Wales has found men being paid significantly more than women, even after allowing for differences in age, experience and type of firm.

The findings, described as "shameful" by the society's president, Tony Girling, will come as a serious embarrassment to a profession that has preached a strong message of equality and into which women are now entering in greater numbers than men.

Speaking on the first day of the Law Society's annual conference in Manchester, Mr Girling, told delegates: "How can anyone conceivably stand up and argue in this day and age that equality of talent does not justify equality of treatment?"

"There are problems about partnership - career breaks and all that - some may say. But surely those women who have made it to be partners or assistant solicitors are entitled to equal reward with their male colleagues. That isn't what is happening."

Taking median earnings, the raw data from the survey shows male assistant solicitors earning £24,000 compared with £21,000 for women. At the level of salaried partners, men are earning £37,000 compared with £32,000 for women. Among equity partners, the gulf widens to £51,000 for men and £36,000 for women.

Mr Girling said afterwards that even when the figures were

adjusted for factors like size and location of firm, age and length of qualification, there was still an average difference of £1,700 between male and female associate or assistant solicitors. "That is a lot of money," he said.

Mr Girling was giving advance warning of the findings which are part of a survey of solicitors' incomes to be published next month. The ongoing study by Coopers and Lybrand and Scantel, is examining 579 representative firms of up to 80 partners, thus excluding the very top earners in City firms.

The exercise is the society's first-ever investigation into solicitors' take-home pay as opposed to profitability.

Mr Girling agreed that women solicitors appeared to be being exploited. "I feel ashamed," he said. "It continues to indicate that solicitors do feel that women are people they can get away with paying at lower levels."

A third of the 66,123 practising solicitors in England and Wales are women, and slightly more than 50 per cent of each year's new intake are female.

Solicitors found guilty of breaching a professional practice rule against discrimination, could be disciplined for misconduct. But Mr Girling said it was "very much a question of education, encouragement and exhortation".

Studies carried out for the society by the Policy Studies Institute also show that people from ethnic minorities face considerable difficulty in getting training contracts to complete their qualification as solicitors.



Out of the shadows: Bacon's *Seated Figure (Red Cardinal)*, unseen in public for 35 years, which is expected to fetch £1.5m Photograph: Nick Turpin

## Bacon's cardinal steps into the light

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Correspondent

A major portrait from Francis Bacon's famous Papal series, in which he transmuted papal images into visions of insanity, has come on to the market for the first time in decades.

*Seated Figure (Red Cardinal)* has been known to experts only from a black-and-white photograph and has not been seen by the public for 35 years. Its sale at Christie's on 4 December - for an estimated £1.5m - is hailed as a return to confidence in the art market.

Bacon painted *Seated Figure* in 1960. It resided in an American collection until the 1970s, and was then bought by a European collector.

Bacon died in April 1992; a new biography by Michael Peppiatt, *Anatomy of an Enigma*, details the artist's love affair with Peter Lacy, and tells how many of his works were destroyed.

## £25,000 pay deal for train drivers

BARRIE CLEMENT and  
CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Drivers at South West Trains are set to accept a productivity deal which will guarantee them £25,000 a year, making them the highest paid drivers in the industry.

The deal is part of a quiet revolution taking place on the railways, with drivers tearing up rule books and discarding 100-year-old work practices to boost their salaries with the new rail companies, in return for greater flexibility.

The SWT package, which more than doubles the previous guaranteed wage, involves a switch from traditional wages to salaries. The 800 drivers will also enjoy a two-hour reduction in their working week to 37 hours. The productivity deal would mean that average earnings could rise by more than 13 per cent, on top of a 2.9 per cent rise negotiated in April.

The previous rate was £11,950 per year, but additional allowances, such as payments for unsocial hours, mileage and overtime, will be consolidated into a salary of between £25,000 and £26,000 a year.

In return, the union will agree to more driver-only operation of trains, dispensing

with guards, and a higher proportion of shift time being spent driving trains rather than sitting in depots. Duty times will now range from six to 11 hours, rather than seven to nine hours.

All but £7,000 of the new salary will be pensionable, ensuring much higher pensions for drivers. The company is assuring no compulsory redundancies, split shifts or part-time working.

The drivers' union, Aslef, believes the SWT package is one of the best deals being thrashed out with 30 train companies. The union has agreed productivity packages with four companies and three offers are out to ballot among drivers. Salaries range from £20,600 at Central Trains to £24,000 at East Coast.

While there are job losses in all the deals - East Coast is losing 80 out of 350 drivers - Aslef has successfully negotiated that these will be lost through natural wastage.

Lew Adams, Aslef general secretary, said his executive had no hesitation in recommending the proposed agreements. "It is another step towards improving the living standards of drivers and rewarding them for the exacting job they have to undertake."

A country in the grip of hysteria about salmonella  
Page 12

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

**THIS WEEK, BT CUT THEIR PRICES BY UP TO 25%. AND WE'LL STILL BE UP TO 48% CHEAPER.**

Hurrah! Champagne! BT has 25% off their prices. But with our GlobalLink package for businesses, we're still 48% cheaper for a 3 minute call to the States during weekday working hours.

Hurrah! Vintage Bollinger! For details FreeCall 0500 800 125.

**MERCURY**

It doesn't cost anything to talk  
**FreeCall 0500 800 125**

Prices and savings compared against BT's best rate, then to open, worldwide. Calls are subject to a minimum charge of 14 p. GlobalLink savings are available for a subscription fee of £2.50 per quarter. All prices quoted ex-VAT.

We can see why some of you won't swallow the idea of

a business network. You feel you're not big enough. Or that it's too expensive. So we feel it's time to reassure you. We'll give you as much - or as little - help as you need to start

exploiting the connected world. Whether you need an Intranet, a server or just a couple of ThinkPads.

IBM business Partners have developed solutions in

over 35,000 commercial situations. So they'll take the most relevant one and use it as a model to create an application designed especially for you. So that every inch, every byte, is matched to the job. But since a huge slice of the development work's already been done to help someone else's company join the networked world, it'll be fully tested and ready to use. What's more, it'll save you a good deal of money. And let's face it. That's a taste you share with every other business.

**IBM**  
Solutions for a small planet

Please tell me more about how IBM and IBM Business Partners can help my business. Please return to:  
Nigel Connor, IBM United Kingdom Limited, FREEPOST (PT352), North Harbour, Portsmouth PO6 3BR or fax to 01705 221144 or call 0800 675 675, quoting reference PINS.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Job title \_\_\_\_\_ Company name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## news



Fine cut: Ready-to-wear designs by Emanuel Ungaro (left and right) and Karl Lagerfeld (centre) at the Paris fashion show yesterday

Photograph: Reuters/Ben Elwes

## Child sex tour agent jailed for 16 years

LOUISE JURY

A British travel agent was jailed in the Philippines for 16 years yesterday for promoting sex tours with children as young as 12.

Michael Clarke, 50, from Eastbourne, Sussex, became the first foreigner to be convicted of inducing child prostitution since a campaign against the illegal trade was launched by President Fidel Ramos last year.

The successful prosecution, secured with the help of British campaigners, prompted calls for more police resources to investigate sex offences committed by Britons against children overseas.

Danny Smith, director of the campaigning charity Jubilee, said: "Tough action by governments, including the British, is imperative to bring to justice abusers and to save more children from exploitation."

The court in Olongapo heard how Clarke distributed a brochure in London promoting an adult tour package which included a drive to "Sin City" - Olongapo - and the "OK Corral" where "dozens of headstrong young fillies are tethered". Clients were told they could "choose (their) mount".

He also published posters promoting his Paradise Express business showing boys and girls in sexually provocative poses and promising "outrageous happenings". And he placed advertisements in *Exchange and Mart*.

He was caught when Martin Cottingham, of the charity

Christian Aid, posed as a client and ITN secretly filmed meetings. Mr Cottingham told the court that Clarke offered him sex with a child prostitute and advised him to take a camera, video recorder and "fetish gear" with him on his holiday. Another witness told how Clarke claimed sex with a 12-year-old girl cost only as much as a hamburger.

Sentencing him yesterday, Judge Fatima Asdala said: "This act of promising sex with the young ... in the guise of promoting tourism is considered by this court to be debasing of Filipino women and children."

She ordered that after serving his sentence, Clarke should be deported and banned from the Philippines for the rest of his life. The travel agent slumped to his seat as her verdict was read to the court.

He had vehemently denied any offence and claimed he had been set up. As prison guards led him away from the courtroom, he told reporters: "I am completely innocent of the charge - a fabrication. It's diabolical - I've suffered enough."

Members of the Coalition on Child Prostitution and Tourism, which includes the NSPCC and Anti-Slavery International charities, welcomed Clarke's jailing.

Mr Cottingham said: "I hope this verdict makes more British men think twice about travelling to poorer countries to exploit children sexually."

Tough new penalties, with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, were introduced in Britain at the beginning of the month aimed at punishing the organisers of child sex tours.



Michael Clarke: Invited clients to 'choose their mount'

## Stab-case youth accuses boy

The teenager alleged to have murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence accused another boy of the stabbing yesterday.

He said the boy borrowed his coat and cap to disguise himself during a confrontation outside St George's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School, north-west London. As people were running and screaming, the teenager said, he saw the other boy "punch Mr Lawrence sideways. He was still wearing my coat - the hood was up. He had a scarf across his face. He started walking towards me. I was waiting for him - he got pretty close to me. I saw a knife in his hand. He said he had stabbed a teacher in the heart. He did not seem at all panicked. I saw the blade - it did not appear to have blood on it."

The teenager, who was not a St George's pupil, was testifying in his defence. He has denied murdering Lawrence last December.

He denied carrying a weapon and said he went to the school at the request of the other boy - a Filipino - because "some black boys were picking on them. It had happened a few times. They were getting picked on because they were Filipino".

The other boy, who had a tattooed hand, asked for his clothing, saying there were teachers around and he needed a disguise. He saw the tattooed boy run off after the stabbing. "I saw him throw the knife in the middle of the road. He still had my coat on." He said that when he caught up with others in his group, he told them a teacher had been stabbed "because of what the other boy told me".

Asked by his counsel, David Spens, QC, why he later told an acquaintance he had done the stabbing, the teenager said: "I was boasting." He told him he saw blood "to make it sound more exciting". It had not been true, he told the court.

### WOOLWORTHS

Product Recall Notice

5 Piece Non-Stick Cookware Set (£9.99)

Reference Codes: 330 C 1700 - White

330 C 1710 - Red, 330 C 1720 - Green

330 C 1730 - Blue, 330 C 1740 - Black



Woolworths has learned of a potential fault in its 5 Piece Non-Stick Cookware Set which under certain circumstances could affect the handle security. In the interests of customer safety and as a precautionary measure the Cookware Set has been withdrawn from sale in all Woolworths stores.

Any customer who has purchased this product since February, 1996 should return it to their nearest store, where a full refund will be given. A receipt is not necessary.

# R.E.M.

## "NEW ADVENTURES IN HI-FI"

### THE ACCLAIMED NEW ALBUM

"a triumph"

Q\*\*\*\*\*

"a bloody marvellous album"

Arena

"ambitious and rewarding"

Daily Telegraph

"so good they defy gravity"

Time Out

"a great album"

NME

"A masterpiece"

Sunday Telegraph

"outstanding - a constant delight"

The Times

"a remarkable record"

Mojo



10/10/96



ild seen  
r agent  
led for  
years



ease you  
uses bo

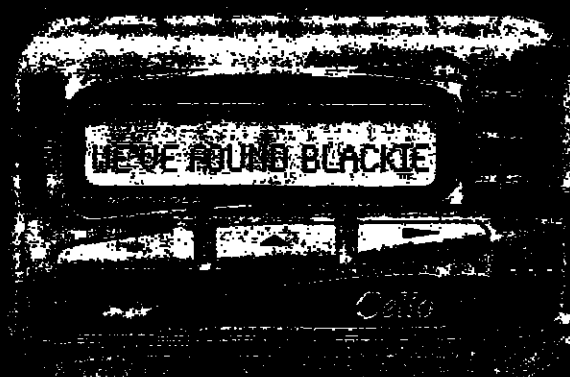
OLWORTH



PANIC OVER HUN

LEAVE ROUND BLACKIE

ASLEEP IN THE AIRING CURBET



The cat's been missing all day.  
When it started to rain, the children (surprise, surprise) decided they'd search back in the house, but you persevered in the park.  
You're the one who's fed and looked after Blackie for the last eight years. She'll come to you.  
But as it turns out the children were right.

Now they want to tell you to call off the hunt, but trying to find you in the park would take longer than it did to find the cat, and, of course, it would mean they'd get wet.  
So they simply call your personal BT EasyReach™ number and leave a message. A few moments later it appears on your messenger's visual display.  
You're overjoyed, the children stay dry

and the cat's wondering what all the fuss was about.  
The messenger is small enough to keep with you all the time, and the battery lasts for several weeks, so you'll never need to switch it off.  
It can receive messages twenty four hours a day, or store up to fifteen until you're ready to take them.

It will ring or beep to let you know there's a message waiting, and if you want privacy you can set it to gently vibrate.  
BT EasyReach™ messengers cost from £59.99 to £89.99. Call in to any of the shops below or call **Freefone 0800 800 040**.  
You'll get the message.



BT COMMUNICATION CENTRES, BT SHOPS, THE CARPHONE WAREHOUSE, CURRY'S SUPERSTORES, PHONES 4U, STAPLES, THE LINK AND SELECTED BRANCHES OF DIXONS.  
Call cost 55p per minute (8am - 6pm, Monday - Friday). 35p off peak. Calls from BT public payphones, mobiles, non-BT networks and those made using BT Chargecards are charged at different rates.

## international

# 'Mummy, the Serb says we must take our beds out now'

Dubrava, Serb-controlled northern Bosnia - Fatima Mehic was telling me that she feared for her home, when the door burst open and her illiterate son Rasim rushed into the room. "Mummy," he said, "The Serb says we must take our beds out of the attic now." Rasim swayed on his feet, hungry and cold, as frightened as his mother and sick father Fakhrudin. They had all seen the document from the Serb authorities, informing Savo Ponjevic that he and his Serb refugee family from Dorn Vakuf could have the "use" of Fatima's family home. This was ethnic cleansing post-Dayton style.

Fatima, her tired face framed by gaunt dark hair, wrung her hands in rage and anxiety, wiping away tears with her fingers. "I've no income of any kind - we only get food from the humanitarian organisations and my son and daughter can't go to school," she wept. "This house was my grandfather's and I grew up here. Now it is legally owned by my nephew who is in Germany. When the Serb family arrived as refugees, I welcomed them - I told them, 'I was a refugee too - I know how you feel.' I let them have the downstairs rooms and two of the four attic rooms. Then they told me they wanted me out of the house altogether. And now they say I can't even live in the out-house."

A Muslim refugee herself, from the front lines at Derventa - her own house there was destroyed - Fatima moved to the old family home in Dubrava in 1992, aware that the Serb authorities were murdering and driving Muslims from their homes in northern Bosnia but declaring repeatedly that she accepted the idea of living in the "Serb Republic". Her fragile security remained intact until, just under a month ago, she heard

## BACK TO BOSNIA

A new ethnic cleansing is in use now, Robert Fisk says in his series on life a year after the ceasefire

that Savo Ponjevic had obtained a legal document to appropriate her home. "I went to the municipality and appealed to keep my house and they gave me a paper to let me do that," Fatima said. "Savo accused me of bribing the official for it. How could I bribe anyone? I don't have a dinner!"

Outside, a clutch of United Nations officials and international policemen arrived, observers under the Dayton accord who are doing their best to shame the Serbs into leaving the 2,000 surviving Muslims of Dubrava alone. It is true that the Serb authorities gave Fatima a letter saying she could stay in the out-house. Much good did it do her. When I knocked on Savo's front door - the door of Fatima's family home - I was met by a proud, angry man whose voice, once we had sat down, grew so loud in fury that it vibrated on the coffee table in front of us. He immediately produced his own official Serb document which was as uncompromising as his own lack of pity for Fatima.

"I bought my home in Dorn Vakuf with my own money and the Muslims took it and it was

better than this house," he shouted. "My wife and three children and I were forced to wander from town to town. I moved to this house because the owner was not here. The Muslim woman is a relative of the owner but I have been living here for a year now. That woman comes from Derventa. Let her go back there and rebuild her old home. If I could go back to my home in Dorn Vakuf, I would walk there barefoot." But Fatima's home in Derventa is destroyed, I said. "Then let her rebuild it," Savo boomed back. He was shaking with anger now, his eyes as grey as lead. Savo slammed the paper on to the table in front of me. Signed by a Serb official, it says that Fatima's home - lot number 713/1 - was now given to Savo's family "to use along with all the movable property which they find in the above stated residence". "The home I owned in Dorn Vakuf belongs now to a Muslim called Rachmanovic," Savo roared. "Now this house is mine. The war hasn't ended for me - my children have no future."

In the corner of the room, his son and two daughters, the eldest a beautiful teenager with an innocent, smiling face, sat staring at their father. A kind of madness had seized Savo and - despite everything one could feel pity for him. An intrinsically middle-class, ordinary man, Savo had been driven by war to destroy his own generosity and, by extension, his own personality. Despite his remarks about his children, he has found places for them in local schools, unlike the woman he was evicting. And when I asked him if he could not be kind to Fatima, he turned on me like a wolf. "Why do you ask that?" he shouted. "What do you think I am? An animal? Give me back my home in Dorn Vakuf. It's not I who

am divided from this woman. It is the Serb authorities who gave me the right to this house who are to blame. It is this piece of paper that is dividing us."

It was an extraordinary statement. Savo had lived under communism for 35 years and now he still blamed the authorities for his very own act of appropriation. On the upstairs balcony of "his" home there now hung a Serb flag. Fatima was outside, talking to the UN men.



Bosnians watch Americans destroying ammunition yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

"I was born here and I was brought up here," she cried. "I only went to Derventa because my husband was from there. I thought the war would only last for a month and then I'd go back home. I regret most of all that my children see all this - and they cannot even go to school."

Beside her, a Muslim neighbour was shaking his head. "You see that abandoned house over there?" he asked me, pointing to a bleak old building

in an overgrown field. "This place was once a German settlement and a German built that in 1922. He was thrown out in 1945. Then others came and they were thrown out over the years. No one was ever happy there and no one will live there now. The Serbs in Fatima's house should remember an old Bosnian saying. 'That which was taken by force is cursed.'"

On Monday, Robert Fisk reports on a mass grave at Sanski Most.

# Kenyans fear satanism charges mask witch-hunt

DAVID ORR and  
ILONA EVELEENS  
Nairobi

Kenya is in the grip of satanism hysteria, with none other than President Daniel arap Moi leading the field. Human sacrifice, cannibalism and the satanic abuse of children are widespread in Kenya, according to a report commissioned by the President.

So sensitive are its findings, says President Moi, that it is impossible for the government to publish the document. Some opposition politicians are suggesting the only reason the government is refusing to publish the report is because members of the Kumu ruling party are themselves involved.

The Presidential Inquiry into the Cult of Devil Worship was set up a year ago. Represented on it are many of Kenya's leading church figures. "Owing to the sensitive nature of the information contained in the report and the legal implications of some of the findings, it is not appropriate for the government to make the findings public," said President Moi. However, many opposition members fear the satanism issue will become a pretext for a witch-hunt against them in the run-up to next year's general elections.

"He is getting ready to release selected parts of the report to discredit individual politicians," Paul Muite, a Kilimanjaro MP, told *The Independent* yesterday. "I have no doubt that I'm one of the people he's out to get. Satanism is a phantom, but in such a Christian country as ours this play could have a devastating impact on the opposition."

Mr Muite is, along with activist Richard Leakey, a founding member of the Safina movement which the government has refused to register as a political party. Mr Muite and other opposition politicians have called on the government to make the findings of the commission public. "The only reason the government doesn't

want to publish the report must be because many of its leading members are involved," said Ford-Ali M. Philip Gitonga. "I believe this could go right up to President Moi himself."

The Kenyan press frequently reports cases of witchcraft and demonic possession. In recent weeks letters have appeared in newspapers calling on the authorities to cleanse the country of "all devilish elements".

"There is a strong chance that all this might be misinterpreted and people take justice into their own hands," said Professor GAM



President Moi: Refuses to publish devil worship report

Ogutu, head of religious studies at the University of Nairobi.

According to Kenya's *East African Standard*, the presidential commission has received information on such satanic practices as the kidnapping of children, rape, sexual abuse, murder and the ritual use of body parts in black masses.

"There's no doubt that devil worship is getting worse and the ones involved are the big shots," said Fr Ndikaru wa Teresia, a Catholic priest in the town of Thika. "People who come to me for counselling say they are being offered large sums of money to attend satanic ceremonies. They have human and blood sacrifices at these rituals. I have good evidence that high-ranking politicians are involved and that they do these things to achieve their political ends."

# NOW THERE IS A GOOD REASON TO BUY CD-ROMS

## BBC

60 years of experience

BBC Multimedia CD-ROM

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

# COMPETITION IS GREAT FOR BUSINESS.

# SO COME ON, BT, BE A BIT MORE COMPETITIVE.

Great, isn't it? The BT monopoly and its old rival fighting for your business.

You can't lose. Better service. Latest products. And, most of all, lower prices. OK, so BT cut their prices this week.

**MERCURY** Even so, Mercury is still substantially cheaper than BT.

Add Mercury to your phone system and save 48% on a 3 minute call to the States during weekday working hours. Or 39% on a 5 minute long distance call in the UK. So, for the really competitive prices, call us.

International charges are based on CableLink package, subject to a 4.2p minimum charge. The UK national call is based on UKLink package, calls subject to a 2p connection charge. All prices and savings compared against BT's basic rate, plus to four pence. A subscription fee of £7.50 per quarter applies. All prices quoted in UK.

Call us now on FreeCall 0500 800 125 and find out how much your company would save. Or return this coupon to Mercury Customer Services, FREEPOST MK 7504, PO Box 44, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 3LH.

MR MRS AND SIS INITIALS SURNAME  
JOB TITLE  
COMPANY NAME  
ADDRESS  
TEL NO

It doesn't cost anything to talk.  
FreeCall 0500 800 125.

هكذا من الأصل



# Malan cleared in KwaZulu massacre trial

MARY BRAID  
Durban

Magnus Malan, former South African defence minister, and four other apartheid-era generals walked free from a court here yesterday, cleared, after a seven-month trial, of murder and conspiracy charges.

Tim McNally, the KwaZulu-Natal Attorney general, failed to link the generals, the most senior members of the old regime to be charged with atrocities, and other security-force members, with six Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) cadres in the 1987 massacre of 13 people during a prayer meeting in KwaMakutha, a village south of Durban.

General Malan, one of the apartheid era's most hated figures, who called his first appearance in court a dark day for democracy, said the verdict was a triumph for justice.

Tienie Groenewald, former chief director of military intelligence, who had charges against him dismissed during the trial, said the acquittals vindicated the South African Defence Force (SADF) and hoped they would mark an end to "political trials".

Standing in a corner of the court grounds while the generals' families and IFP supporters celebrated, Mbusi Ntuli, 24, who lost three sisters - aged seven, 14 and 16 - and his father in the KwaMakutha massacre, said he and his mother Anna

were disappointed. Like many, he believes the courts and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which encourages perpetrators of injustices to confess in return for amnesty, are failing to expose the truth or the guilty people.

"We are bitter but we expected this verdict," said Mr Ntuli, whose brother Victor, an ANC activist, was the intended target of the 1987 attack. "Those who died were innocent children who knew nothing of the struggle. They were murdered, yet it seems no one killed them."

Mr McNally said that while IFP supporters had perpetrated the massacre, Gen Malan and the other officers were also responsible because they had provided training for the men, among 200 IFP supporters recruited to "Operation Marionette", a secret SADF project to create an IFP military force which would combat the ANC in KwaZulu.

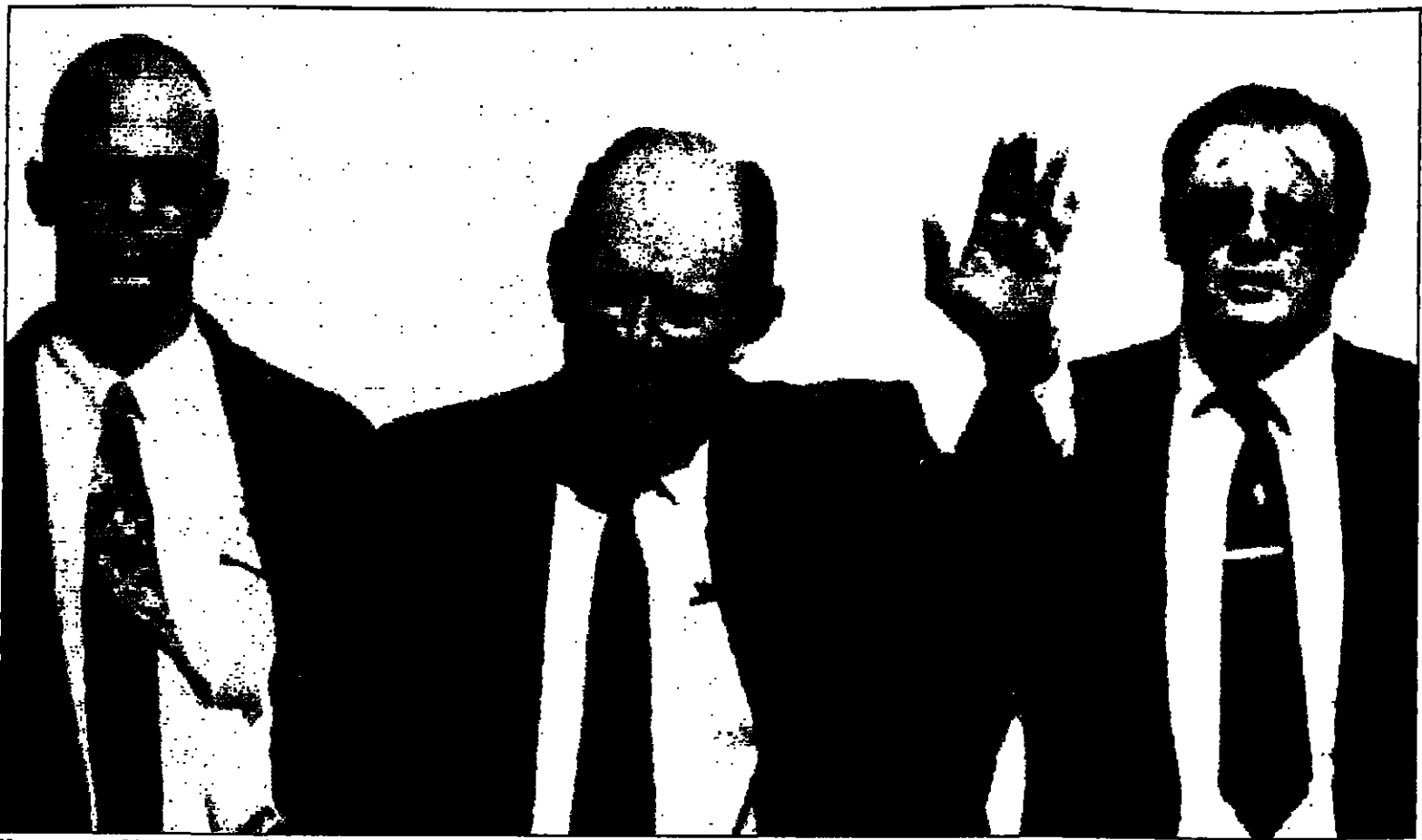
But the three main witnesses - Marionette recruits who turned state's evidence in return for indemnity - were rejected as unreliable by Judge Jan Hugo. He also ruled that military documents failed to prove the generals were part of a conspiracy to create IFP hit-squads.

On Thursday the six black IFP supporters were cleared of all charges and yesterday it was the turn of the white men, who allegedly pulled their strings, to go free.

The Ntulis say prosecutors are reluctant to press charges against the old guard and that judges are reluctant to convict. "This is justice in South Africa. It has always been like this and the judiciary are the same old people."

McNally later denied he had been forced to bring the case under political pressure from the ANC and that he had lacked the will to win.

The public are also frustrated by the hearing. A woman in the public gallery said: "There are plenty of dead and damaged people... but no guilty people. No one supported apartheid. It's denial on a grand scale. Pretty soon we will be talking about alleged apartheid."



Happy man: Magnus Malan arriving at court in Durban for yesterday's verdicts

Photograph: Mark Wing/AP

## Yes, it's a very big coupon, but have you seen the size of your overdraft recently?

The Lloyds Bank Graduate Service proves that our heart is as big as our coupon. Transfer your current account to us and you can apply for a life saving interest free (0% APR) £700 overdraft, not to mention a loan of up to £5000 and up to 2 years fee free banking. For more details freephone 0800 66 44 77 or see if you can squeeze your name and address into the coupon below.

GRADUATE SERVICE

 Lloyds Bank

## Peace prize highlights forgotten Timor war

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

In an announcement that will gravely embarrass the Indonesian government, and renew attention on one of the world's forgotten wars, the Nobel Peace Prize was yesterday awarded to the Catholic bishop of East Timor and an allied Timorese resistance leader, for their work towards a peaceful settlement in the Indonesian-occupied territory.

The \$512m (£700,000) prize will be shared equally by Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos Horta, a former member of the East Timorese resistance and the territory's leading international spokesman. In a devastating citation which will infuriate Jakarta, the Norwegian Nobel Committee commended the men "for their work towards a just and peaceful settlement to the conflict in East Timor".

"In 1975 Indonesia took control of East Timor and began systematically oppressing the people," the statement added. "In the years that followed, it has been estimated that one-third of the population of East Timor lost their lives due to starvation, epidemics, war and terror..."

The announcement was welcomed by the Vatican and focuses international attention on the tragic plight of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1975. Its annexation the following year has been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations, and Indonesian troops have been involved in a bitter guerrilla war ever since with the dwindling East Timorese resistance.

In 1991, more than 200 East Timorese died and scores of others "disappeared" when troops fired on mourners at a cemetery in the capital, Dili. Despite repeated claims that its annexation is supported by the majority of East Timorese, the problem remains an acute embarrassment to the government of President Suharto, which will only be accentuated by the Nobel Committee's announcement.

"We are quite surprised and regret that such a terrible situation could award a person like Ramos Horta," he had been clearly involved in planning and manipulating the people of East Timor to separate from the



Men of peace: Bishop Belo (above) and Jose Ramos Horta

united republic of Indonesia," the Indonesian Foreign Office said yesterday.

"This was about to become a forgotten conflict," Francis Sejersted, chairman of the prize committee, said in Oslo. "By awarding this prize, we hope to contribute to a diplomatic solution to the conflict."

Apart from its monetary value, the award will boost the profile of the 48-year-old Bishop Belo, who has become a symbol of peaceful resistance since his appointment to the mostly Catholic territory in 1983. He has repeatedly criticised the Indonesian military and called for a referendum on self-determination.

The bishop has received death threats and lives under constant surveillance by Indonesian intelligence officers in his home in Dili.

Mr Ramos Horta, who lives in Australia, is the author of a detailed peace proposal presented in 1992 to the UN and European Parliament. "I am obviously happy," he told Australian radio yesterday.

"But I feel that the man who should have earned it along with Bishop Belo, is Xanana Gusmao, the leader of East Timor, the leader of resistance." Since 1992 Mr Gusmao has been serving a 20-year sentence in Jakarta.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

0800 66 44 77 QUOTING REF IND7

Lending is subject to the Bank's assessment of your financial position. You must be 18 years or over to apply. Overdraft facilities are available on all current accounts. The Bank's Graduate Service is available to students studying in 1996. Lloyds Bank Plc is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, and a signatory to the Code of Banking Practice. Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3BS.

## international



Wild at heart: Jan "the Fat One" Jensen, one of the Bandidos leaders

Photograph: Ole Steen

## Scandinavia takes on its gangland warriors.

TONY BARBER  
Copenhagen

Scandinavian governments, shocked into action by a missile attack that killed two people and wounded 19 in Copenhagen, announced plans yesterday to crack down on motorcycle gang warfare, which is undermining the region's reputation for tranquillity and safety. The justice ministers of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden said they would create a register of stolen weapons, examine the personal finances of bikers to see if they had obtained money illegally and co-ordinate police investigations into motorcycle crime across the region.

The Danish parliament has passed a law aimed at driving biker clubhouses out of residential neighbourhoods. The legislation was adopted four days after an anti-tank missile was fired at the Copenhagen

## HIDEOUTS OF THE HELLS ANGELS



headquarters of the Hell's Angels, killing a would-be gang member and a young mother who was attending a party there but had no other connection with the bikers.

Police suspect responsibility for the attack lies with the Bandidos, a gang which has been in violent conflict with the Hell's Angels since it moved into the region in summer 1993. Danish

police have arrested a Bandidos supporter after discovering another anti-tank device buried under a garage in Kullhus, 25 miles north of Copenhagen.

Last weekend's violence in the Danish capital had in some respects a tragic inevitability about it. Far from taking action to suppress the gangs' murderous and criminal activities, the Copenhagen city council has paid large sums in rent support to enable the Hell's Angels to stay in their headquarters at Tiltangede, the street where the missile exploded.

Despite the fortress-like appearance of the Hell's Angels premises, the mayor, Jens Kramer Mikkelsen, insisted on thinking of it as a "community centre" or "youth club" rather than a nerve-centre of violence and crime. However, as the number of violent incidents in densely populated areas rose, local people grew increasingly angry at the kid-glove treatment of the bikers, many of whom live largely on welfare benefits and the proceeds of organised crime.

The missile used in last weekend's attack was stolen in 1994

from army stores in Sweden. Other missiles from that break-in have been fired at Hell's Angels clubhouses in other parts of Denmark.

Danish experts on biker gangs criticised the Copenhagen authorities for not banning last Sunday's so-called "Viking party" at which the missile was directed. The woman who died was one of a number of local people whom the Hell's Angels had invited, in an apparent effort to improve their image in the neighbourhood.

Danish police said yesterday that they had seized documents at a Hell's Angels meeting place last week that indicated the gang was planning to expand into eastern Europe. Countries marked down for new operations included Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Russia and Ukraine.

Nine people have been killed and almost 50 wounded since 1994 in the feud in the region between Hell's Angels and Bandidos. One of the worst incidents occurred last March when the Danish Bandido leader, Uffe Larsen, was shot dead at Copenhagen airport after he and his fellow bikers were ambushed by a rival gang.

Less than a year before that, the newly elected Bandido president, Mikael Ljunggren, was killed by a sniper while riding his bike near the Swedish city of Helsingborg. Police said those responsible were either Hell's Angels or a Bandido faction opposed to Ljunggren's leadership.

However, biker gangs are not a new phenomenon in Scandinavia. One such gang, known as 666, was active in Denmark as early as the mid-Seventies.

# Fine wine at plonky prices. Have Sainsbury's got a corkscrew loose?

**Sauvignon Blanc Vin de Pays du Jardin de la France 75cl**  
£3.99 £2.99 **Save £1**

**Sainsbury's La Baume Chardonnay 75cl**  
£4.99 £3.99 **Save £1**

**Chablis Premier Cru Montée de Tonnerre 75cl**  
£9.95 £8.45 **Save £1.50**

**Sainsbury's Cuvée Prestige Côtes du Rhône 75cl**  
£3.99 £2.99 **Save £1**

**Sainsbury's Château de la Tour 75cl**  
£5.45 £4.45 **Save £1**

**Sainsbury's La Baume Cabernet Sauvignon 75cl**  
£4.99 £3.99 **Save £1**

You may have seen prices this low before. But on wines this good? It gets better. Buy any 4 bottles and you'll get a further 5% off the price.

There's even a money-back guarantee. If you don't like the wine, just bring it back and we'll give you a full refund.

How can we offer all this? Don't ask us, ask our Wine Buyer. He's the one in the Napoleon Bonaparte outfit.

## Spain quashes child-porn ring

ELIZABETH NASH  
Madrid

Spanish police, helped by the US Justice department, say they have dismantled Europe's biggest distribution ring of child pornography on the Internet. Police raids on the homes of two telecommunications students near Barcelona sparked furious demands yesterday for a crack-down on child pornography, which is not a crime in Spain.

The two computer wizards, aged 20 and 21, are accused of making a fortune by trafficking "horrific" pornographic images of children as young as three throughout the world, police said.

Police confiscated videotapes, contact lists and 4,000 computer files of "naked chil-

dren aged three or four engaged in every kind of sexual act, with other minors or with adults", the biggest such haul in Europe. Police said the images themselves had been filmed in northern and eastern European countries. More detentions are expected.

The two Catalans had apparently accumulated their pornographic archive in Vic, near Barcelona, by exchanging or buying images through the Internet, using stolen passwords.

The police raid, the climax of four months of investigation - following a tip-off by special agents of the US Treasury department - prompted shrill demands yesterday for stricter regulation of the Internet and stiffer penalties for child pornography.

## THE SUNDAY REVIEW



Once he bestrode world politics like a colossus; now he's all but forgotten. But Mikhail Gorbachev would still like his superpower back. He talks to Ian Parker about politics and American movies

Photo synthesis: Eve Arnold celebrates the life and work of Robert Capa

Plus: new fiction by Junot Diaz, Helen Fielding on country house hotels, and Terence Conran on design

IN TOMORROW'S  
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Johnnie Walker



# Dole seeks a lifeline as 'bozos' enter fray

JOHN CARLIN  
Cincinnati

A small body of Bill Clinton supporters dressed up in frizzy wigs and red noses turned up at a Bob Dole election rally in Cincinnati, south-west Ohio, one of the few corners of the United States where the Republican presidential candidate holds a small lead in the polls. The Clinton clowns held up home-made banners identifying themselves as members of a new political movement called BAD: "Bozos Against Dole."

The joke was not lost on the 2,000 people at the rally. Cincinnati, a bland mid-west city, distinguished itself in the 1992 election as the only metropolitan centre with more than a million inhabitants to give George Bush an absolute majority.

In the most dramatic and heavily reported incident of a moribund campaign week, a man called out to Mr Dole during an election stop in New Jersey: "Please get Bozo out of the White House". Mr Dole shot back: "Bozo's on his way out."

That, to the frustration of Republican insiders, is the closest the former senator from Kansas has got to attacking President Clinton where he is weakest - on his character and morals. It seems, despite his supporters' pleading, that Mr Dole is refusing to stoop to the "attack dog" style of campaigning.

Twenty points behind Mr Clinton in the national polls, overall in Ohio, a state that no successful Republican presidential candidate has ever lost, he lags by eight points. Yet nothing at Cincinnati, Mr Dole's first leg on a two-day bus tour of Ohio, suggested any sense of urgency, and the BAD jokers sought in vain to goad him.

A large, limping man in a green jacket stood before the podium brandishing a sign which read: "Only in America can a homeless veteran sleep in a cardboard box while a draft dodger sleeps in the White House."

## THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS '96

But Mr Dole, the Second World War hero, did not rise to this bait, either. And, as if it were a campaign for a new mayor, a band played "Soul Man" on stage as little American flags were waved along with "Dole-Kemp '96" posters and round yellow signs that said "15 per cent" - the size of the tax cut Mr Dole is promising but perhaps an accurate indicator of the size of the vote he will attract in November.

In fact the man who got the loudest cheer of the day, was retired general Colin Powell - there for the first time on the campaign trail, endorsing the man most Republicans regret they chose. Mr Powell spoke of Mr Dole's war wounds and of his "deep love for America", describing the candidate as "a straightforward man" who could be relied upon to set about "the restoration of the American family".

Yet the Republicans' products for sale are old goods, according to the polls. And Mr Dole did little to dispel that impression. "The election this year is between stealth liberals and commonsense conservatism," he said. "They don't want you to know they're liberal, but I'm going to tell you every time... they're liberal."

It was tired stuff, even more useless now. President Clinton having spent the past 12 months making Republican policy his very own. But the Cincinnati faithful waved their little flags and whooped, suspending disbelief, and ignoring the larger truth contained in a giant red sign dominating Fountain Square, just behind the Republican stage. "Restaurant Rock Bottom", the sign read.



Capturing souls: Bob Dole starts up his Ohio tour with a jazz band. The Republican candidate has still to set the campaign trail alight as the presidential race nears its final stages  
Photograph: Stephen Jaffe/Reuters

# Far right breaks grip of Red Vienna's rulers

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Central Europe Correspondent

Vienna - After more than 50 years of unchallenged rule, Austria's Social Democrats are on the brink of losing absolute power in the city referred to for decades as "Red Vienna". Polls suggest the party could slump to a humiliating 40 per cent in tomorrow's council elections, and may have to woo potential coalition partners.

The main beneficiary is likely to be Jörg Haider, leader of the far-right Freedom Party, who has fanned the flames of xenophobia in a city which has witnessed a sharp rise in immigration from Eastern Europe and the former Yugoslavia.

Founded in 1889, the Austrian Social Democrats (formerly Socialists) came to power in Vienna in 1920 after the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy. They held it until 1934, when they were banned by the fascist regime.

"Red Vienna" became a model for social democrats everywhere," Professor Gerhard Jagschitz at the city's Institute for Contemporary

History said. "The term stood for everything that was modern, moral and progressive."

When the Social Democrats returned to power in Vienna in 1945, they vowed to continue in the same vein, initiating scores of new building programmes and job creation schemes. By the day more than 25 per cent of the city's housing is in public hands, the highest proportion of any west European capital, and hundreds of thousands of Viennese are employed, either directly or indirectly, by the city government.

The years of Social Democrat rule have coincided with an unparalleled rise in prosperity. But Mr Haider, who once praised Hitler's employment policies, says that "red monopoly rule" has simply bred corruption.

He is likely to win 25 per cent of the vote in the council poll and in the vote for the European Parliament which is also being held tomorrow - not enough to bring him to power, but a reminder of his continually rising popularity and the threat he represents to the established order.

Aptiva. It's just like being at the office, only the coffee is better.

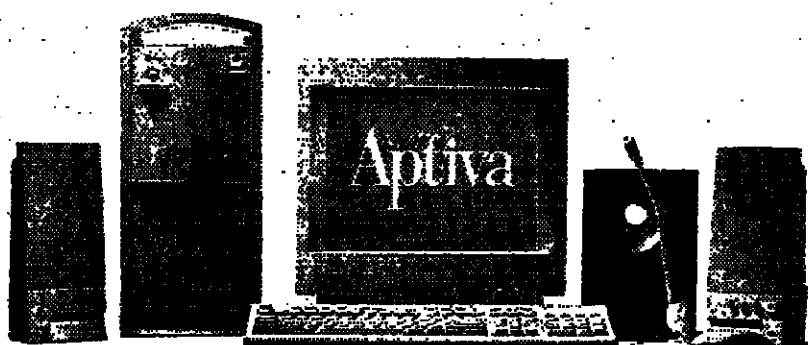


Working at home on Aptiva has lots of advantages - and not just at 11 o'clock.

- From 9 to 5, you can enjoy the perfect working environment courtesy of Lotus SmartSuite '96 - including the latest word processor, spreadsheet and database software.
- The Integral Communications Centre also gives you e-mail, phone, answerphone, fax and one-button Internet access! And, with Wake Up on Ring, you'll never be caught napping by people back at the office, as Aptiva will power up automatically the moment it detects an incoming call or fax. What's more, although Aptiva conserves energy by dozing off between tasks, the Rapid Resume Manager means that, after a coffee break, it goes straight back to work at the point where you left off.
- Finally, at the end of a long day, Aptiva's multimedia capabilities are an excellent way to relax. Total Image, Video, 3D graphics and TheatreSound make Aptiva the ultimate multimedia PC for playing games and CDs. Distractions include: Mech Warrior II, Battle Beast and ActuaSoccer, plus a whole host of other games to test your strategic skills.

You even have your own IT support in the shape of IBM HelpWare - our telephone helpline will be there to give you friendly advice and guidance 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

If this has got you thirsting for more, just call Penny Ashbourne on: 0990 72 72 72 and we'll give you details of your nearest PC retailer.



IBM

Solutions for a small planet

## significant shorts

### Vote vultures hover over Tapié's bones

The vultures are out in force this weekend, disputing the remains of Bernard Tapié's political power base - his parliamentary constituency of Gardanne near Marseille. The by-election, to be held tomorrow, was declared after Mr Tapié, showman turned football manager turned politician, was forced to resign his seat after losing his appeals against a fraud conviction and bankruptcy.

But Mr Tapié's resignation left problems - the main one being how to prevent the seat falling to the extreme right National Front, giving it its first seat in the present parliament. "To keep the seat, the left has parachuted in 'tough but tender' Bernard Kouchner, a minister in the last Socialist government and founder of the charity Médecins sans Frontières. The two other candidates are the local Euro-MP from the Gaullist right and the Communist mayor of Gardanne. Mary Dejesky - Paris

### Battles bring chaos to vital Kabul link

Government forces loyal to the ousted Afghan military head, Ahmad Shah Masood, launched offensives on insurgent Taliban troops along a vital stretch of highway between the capital, Kabul, and the Salang Pass. "The highway between here and Kabul is chaotic - Taliban hold some parts and we hold other parts," said Abdul Bashir Salanghi, one of Masood's commanders. Reuters - Salang Pass.

### Ebola virus kills seven

Seven people have died of the deadly Ebola virus in Gabon, the second such outbreak in the central African nation this year, health officials said. Dr André Nkikyeze of the World Health Organisation in Congo said three others had developed Ebola symptoms. AP - Brazzaville, Congo

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

**STILL 20% CHEAPER**

**MEANWHILE, BT JUST SAVED YOU A BOB.**

Yes, BT changed their ads a bit. They even changed their prices... a bit. But we're still at least 20% cheaper for international calls weekday evenings and all weekend. For details FreeCall 0500 500 366. Come back Mr Hoskins, all is forgiven.

**Mercury SmartCall**

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you save. Plain and simple will continue to be, until 31 October 1996, equipped with Mercury SmartCall, the most cost-effective way to make international calls. 5 minutes or more, from 20p per minute and only 10p at weekends. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £3.75 (inc. VAT).





# Both fighting fit ... but who will slip up?

So, we emerge from the party conference season, heading into a long drawn-out election campaign, with Tony Blair way ahead in the polls, but John Major winning the recent bout on points. Mr Blair had a good conference: his set-piece speech lifted hearts, giving delegates the sense that Labour is still a party of lofty ideals and that he is pursuing office to put traditional principles into modern action. But the man who comes second to the fight gets a lift from having seen his opponent spar. John Major niftily exploited the advantage. Bournemouth was expected to prove a rock and a hard place for the Tory high command, who could offer the Euro-sceptic rank and file little more than a formula for present prevarication. In the event, however, the platform clasped hands and won the relieved applause of the party.

Earlier in the week Mr Major performed a neat trick by taking off his jacket and wowing them in the aisles. Yesterday he came across again as an unexcitable but confident Prime Minister, who compared his own at ease posture with Mr Blair's faintly over-the-top messianic fervour the week before. By rousing the harp of his lower-middle-class background Mr Major manufactured a contrast with Mr Blair, presenting the Labour leader as remote and elitist. Of course we should absolutely distrust the caricature

that one party leader draws of his opponent. That said, Mr Major knows he is playing a clever tune, because his party's pollsters are finding some voters who don't like what they see as "snarm" in Mr Blair. Mr Blair, for his part, knows that his vulnerability centres on the degree to which voters trust him to be what he says he is.

Voters insist that they are not affected by these well managed party conference rituals. The truth, though, is that the image of the parties and their leaders that emerges in commentary and news presentation from these conferences has a real effect on the public perception. In that way, the conferences matter.

They also provide the party faithful with a springboard feeling. On that level, both Labour and the Conservatives are in good order: they are both disciplined, ready and honed for battle. Underneath that smoothly veneered appearance, however, lie the risks of possible rot.

Take Labour. A large slice of its poll lead over the Tories is squishy. It is based more on discontent at the Tory record than popular affirmation of Labour values or visions. Perhaps old correlations between consumer confidence and support for the party in power are no longer as tight as they were; even so, it would be odd if the Tories picked nothing up from the burgeoning signs of eco-



omic well-being. And Labour still lacks complete conviction in key areas - on education, for example, Mr Blair's call to comprehensive arms is undermined by his own and Harriet Harman's personal parental choices.

The Tory cry of hypocrisy, however, carries little weight. Look at those frankly disgraceful passages in Mr Major's speech yesterday when he tried at one and the same time to extol opportunity, enterprise and self-help (as exemplified by the Brixton boy made good) and promise to cancel taxes on inherited wealth which represent the state's legitimate effort to level the playing field of life a little. A party genuinely interested in rewarding talent and effort would have no truck with grubby proposals to let suburban rentiers give their children an even more generous start in life than they already get. It would be ruin, too, if the public bought any of Mr Major's topsy-turvy claim that foreigners all want to imitate our 1,000 years of "united" British history: Edward I built those castles in Wales for the benefit of tourists, presumably.

As for the pretence that the British Parliament is the free world's model - it would be laughable if it did not disclose how reluctant the Conservatives are to relinquish their rule within an electoral system which continues to reward a minority of voters with the

choice of government. Every single country that began with a simulacrum of the Westminster parliament has now moved to make its electoral arrangements fairer and the conduct of its legislative business more efficient; the way we govern ourselves is not a model, it is a glaring international example of bad practice.

The Conservatives rejuvenated themselves this week, but only inside the conference hall. Outside, as Polly Toynbee reported yesterday, implacable forces are waging war within the party over Europe. Bournemouth as viewed through the television camera lens was a Potemkin village. The Tories' tactic towards Sir James Goldsmith and his Referendum Party seems to be to ignore him in the hope that he will eventually fade away. He won't. His incubus is here for the duration.

Bournemouth's slender basis for unity may be enough to see the Tories through to the polls. It may not. Unless Europe explodes underneath them, the fight with Labour will be close, and deserves to be. For all the allegations by world-weary commentators that the parties have become too much alike, we emerge from this past two weeks with real alternatives of policy and principles - with genuinely different visions of Britain that will now be placed before us. The ring is clear. Seconds away.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Whitehall power behind the menace of organophosphates

Sir: There is only one safe way of dealing with organophosphates (OPs) in agriculture: ban them completely ("Tom King was victim of Gulf syndrome pesticide", 9 Oct). As with resolving the BSE crisis, that will come about when the abominable power of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) working in tandem with agrochemical manufacturers is broken.

UK farmers continue to use OP sheep dips as a routine prophylactic against sheep scab, despite mounting evidence of the health risks and repeated warnings by the OP Information Network and Friends of the Earth (*Scab Wars: the impacts of OP sheep dips on farmers, livestock and the environment*, FOE 1993). They do so because Maff has made it clear that any outbreak of sheep scab is likely to result in prosecution.

Elsewhere, sheep are dipped only when there is an outbreak of scab or to prevent fly-strike. The UK regulatory system is ineffective and riddled with serious conflicts of interest. In this area, as in so many others, Maff behaves as if its sole public duty is to increase food production at all costs. Yet, it is also responsible for licensing sheep dips (jointly with the Department of Health) and overseeing their use. All dips are approved on the basis of assessments made within Maff. In turn, these assessments depend on data submitted by the manufacturers. This data is deemed "commercially confidential", and is not released publicly nor subject to independent review. Two of the main OPs (chlorfenvinphos and propetamphos) used in dips have never been subject to a full evaluation of their human health or environmental impacts by Maff.

OP threats are not confined to sheep dips. Maff now recommends that the public should top and peel all carrots before eating because unexpectedly high residues of five different and acutely toxic OPs, used to combat carrot fly, have been discovered in sample testing. Over half the carrot crop in the UK receives three OP treatments a year; although up to nine applications were reported in 1994. Some 1-2 per cent of carrots tested contained OP residues up to 25 times higher than expected. Most British carrots are grown in intensive monocultures in Lincolnshire and Norfolk. Carrot fly is now endemic in these regions. The Government's own Advisory Committee on Pesticides recently reported that "in

order for UK growers to produce carrot crops to the standard required by the major retail outlets, the use of multiple applications for the control of carrot fly is considered essential".

As farmers besieged the Conservative Party Conference on Monday, loudly complaining of the Maff's handling of the BSE crisis, and with the memories of other agricultural scandals from the real trade to salmonella in eggs still fresh in our minds, surely politicians from all parties will now wake up to the fact that something is badly and endemically wrong with British agriculture?

The alternatives - whole-hearted support for organic farming and genuine integrated pest management systems, with agrochemicals used as a last resort - are known, proven, safe and affordable. Such best practices won't arrive magically, but when politicians are pressured to change the regulations and subsidies which drive increasingly intensive and unnatural farming methods. That job is up to consumers, farmers and environmentalists working together. What better time to start than in the run-up to the general election - anyone interested?

CHARLES SECRETY  
Director  
Friends of the Earth  
London N1

Sir: The evidence is staring us in the face: organophosphates have in the last two years been associated with Gulf war syndrome, mad cow disease (BSE), scrapie, and CJD.

The only other country in Europe that uses high doses of organophosphates for pest control of their crops is Switzerland, and they also have serious problems with BSE.

Organophosphates are very dangerous chemicals, related to mustard gas. They are termed "safe" for use on crops and animals because they break down "fast" in the environment. However a recent investigation by one of my students on his family farm has shown that much higher quantities of organophosphates enter surface and groundwater than we thought before.

What I would like to know is whether we are more at risk of CJD from drinking water, eating carrots, eating bread, or eating beef? Am I poisoning my children when I present them with a "well balanced" dinner?

Dr K VALA RAGNARSDOTTIR  
Lecturer in Environmental Geochemistry  
University of Bristol



Response to crisis: food aid arriving in Somalia Photograph: AFP

### Aid is the business of charities

Sir: William Shawcross's provocative argument ("Never mind Oxfam, DHL can deliver", 10 October), that humanitarian aid could be entirely contracted to private companies, doing away with charities, starts from a false assumption: that aid is simply a matter of getting things to people. It is not.

First, there is the question of what is needed. In emergencies which involve a wholesale breakdown of society, this requires careful judgement. The wrong commodity, or the right one wrongly applied, can kill. The process of assessment of what is needed, and of ordering, distributing and monitoring these goods, must be under the control of experienced agencies with staff proficient in administering social care in the local context. That is what aid agencies are for.

Second, aid is not delivered in a vacuum. The need arises from complex political, military, economic and social crises. Aid is an intervention in a distorted political economy. If that context is not analysed and understood by agencies with experience, aid will have all kinds of unintended effects. It can fuel war economies, destroy local production and contribute to the asset-stripping of the poor by people with power and influence.

Third, even in emergencies aid should be used with a development perspective. In south Sudan, for

instance, instead of flooding the war zone with food aid every dry season, Oxfam and others have supported communities to build up their own food security, distributing seeds and tools and fishing equipment which will reduce their long-term vulnerability. And when we do make use of private contractors - to dig a well, improve a road, provide textiles to make clothing - we usually support the local economy by sourcing the contract in the region.

Agencies working with the victims of conflict have a responsibility to advocate on their behalf among the governments and multilateral institutions who can affect their fate - something one can hardly imagine Evian or American Express doing.

Certainly the aid sector must become more efficient and effective, and there is plenty of room for self-criticism. The more responsible British agencies are at the forefront of this critical thinking. Oxfam, Save the Children, the International Federation of the Red Cross, the World Council of Churches and others have established an international code of conduct. The same group is now leading a follow-up effort to establish recognised standards for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

DAVID BRYER  
Director  
Oxfam  
Oxford

### How dangerous are old trees?

Sir: Reading Stephen Goodwin's article on the Lake District National Park's plan to fell the Rusland beeches (7 October) I am driven to wonder how much "expert" opinion is based on scientific analysis, and how much on traditional prejudice against supposedly decaying trees.

The beeches, we are told, are in a "dangerous" condition. Has this danger been quantified? Certainly an old tree might shed a branch, but the statistical chance of it doing so at the very moment someone is passing the very spot the branch falls must be remote in the extreme. Have the park authorities a mathematical estimate of the chances of it happening?

Is it feared that a whole tree might topple over? Again, even if one did, the chance of it hitting someone as it fell must be very small, especially compared with the many small everyday risks we are all compelled to take.

Old, decaying trees don't fall over, they just continue decaying away, over decades, to a bare trunk that rots on the spot. Trees that blow over in storms are almost invariably ones that showed no prior signs of age or weakness, as many people in the South-east will recall from the 1986 "hurricane".

CADADLEY  
Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

### Fine judgement

Sir: The elevation of a judge to the office of Lord Chief Justice is by selection, not an election ("Senior judges round on the Tories", 9 October). The Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor must select whom they consider the right judge for the office.

What would the press say if it was by election? "14 old codgers elect one of their own to top job". The views of 14 Lord Justices of Appeal are as relevant, constitutionally, as my own.

ARNOLD ROSEN  
Arnold Rosen and Co, solicitors  
London W1

### Railroaded

Sir: Just as Tony Blair had got us all wondering why the Labour Party ever existed, Ian Lang, with his proposals to remove immunity from trade unions who go on strike (report, 10 October) has reminded us. The Taff Vale Railway Company no longer exists but people who want to make the trains run on time at any cost to liberty and democracy are still with us.

TOM MOTTERTHEAD  
London N21

### Weaker sex

Sir: Although health campaigns such as your Breast Awareness supplement of 8 October are nearly always directed at women, men on average die younger. The factors in this reduced life expectancy are mainly social and environmental, and therefore also highly preventable. You would expect to see issues affecting men's health aired more prominently.

ALASTAIR MCGOWAN  
Salisbury

### Alien alert

Sir: Unlike Ms Tatham (letter, 3 October) the first culture shock I encountered on entering the United States was not the "women" signs on lavatory doors but the "VISITING ALIENS" sign above passport control.

RACHEL LODGE  
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

## LETTER from THE EDITOR

A Tory conference at Bournemouth and bright autumn sunshine: it takes me back. Ten years ago, as a junior political reporter, I was one of *The Independent's* team on day one. Tony Evans, our political editor, had been plotting ways of getting his team on to the front page of the first issue. Late in the day, he noticed that I had failed to make it, brusquely ordered me to go to a press conference, and got my work piggy-backed onto a real story written by Sarah Hogg - my least distinguished act of journalism and my proudest hour.

Afterwards, we drank deeply and celebrated over pasta, thinking enviously of the real party back at the *Indie's* headquarters in London. This year, the political team were there again - drunk, no doubt - while the rest of us had a party at the Victoria and Albert museum, sipping mineral water and being high-minded at one another. (Well, ish.)

I'd like to thank all of you who sent us so many generous birthday messages and cards. A few days ago, I wrote that our typical reader was, among other things, stumpy. Brilliant foresight: the next morning there was a letter from a reader complaining that he hated our news coverage, jostled our front pages, particularly disliked our foreign coverage, was outraged by the comment pages, disgusted by the sport and business, abhorred the cartoons. He added that he was beginning to wonder whether he was as entirely happy with the paper. Sir, don't wonder; you are clearly an *Independent* reader to your core.

Wedged in a tip-up seat in the hated Press pen at Bournemouth, as the Prime Minister did his genuinely good question-and-answer session for Tory activists, I was reminded again of John Major's almost obsessive hatred of "snobbery". There was, as it happens, an excellent example of what he meant deriving from this week's *Spectator* magazine, which included a diary by Major. It seemed to me well-written and conveyed a genuine flavour of his life,

mocking some of the rituals of European summits, and with the odd flourish of waspish wit. But it is, of course, dangerous territory, since *Private Eye's* rival "Diary of John Major" helped fix the man in the eyes of the nation as a hopelessly Pooterish innocent. It was predictable, then, that Major's real diary was duly described as "almost identical" to the spoof (*Express*) and Pooterish elsewhere - the *Daily Telegraph* headlined it "Diary of a Somebody".

Here was a classic example of the snobbery that so enrages him. But he protests too much. All political leaders in this

All political leaders are caricatured - Tony Blair's reputation is being marinated in pesto and balsamic vinegar all the time, to Major's glee

country are lampooned and caricatured - Tony Blair's reputation is being marinated in pesto and balsamic vinegar all the time, to Major's glee. Indeed, I think it is probably unconstitutional for the press not to lampoon politicians. These days, politicians across the world are starting to use their life-histories as marketing tools - "buy me, I had a tough childhood". It is demeaning, and I don't suppose many of us are affected by it. But if politicians play that personality game, they can hardly complain about being mocked.

Our coverage of the Tories' week has been generally quite favourable. This has greatly irritated some senior Labour people, who ask if we are "changing sides". I can reassure them. The answer is no. We weren't signed up to Labour before, and we aren't on Major's side now. We reported that the Tory conference went well because it did. This is called journalism.

Andrew Marr

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

I like being in love. There's no other reason for being on Earth. It's the only time you're not in control - Adam Faith, veteran pop star

You cannot lead from a position of saying: "I have not made up my mind" - Lord Tebbit on the European single currency issue

I have never said I don't want to be Prime Minister - Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary

I have nothing personal against Michael Howard. For, as St Augustine once said, we must hate the sin and love the sinner - Lord Longford

The obsession of journalists with the search for splits and conflict means that politicians cannot speak without the risk of being misrepresented - Clare Short, Labour MP

There is no point in being at the heart of Europe if the heart is diseased - Norman Lamont, former Chancellor

Given a choice between dinner with Norma or 15 men, Norma won hands down - John Major, explaining that he left the Dublin Euro-summit early last weekend because it was their wedding anniversary

Hands up, those who think I'm going to tell you what's in the Budget! - John Major, in a question session at the Tory party conference in Bournemouth

### All will be revealed at Trust meeting

Sir: I have read the letters from Mrs Webb (7 October) and Mr Theakstone (9 October), following the letter from Lord Kitchener and John Wilks (3 October) with interest and some dismay. I know that both Mrs Webb and Mr Theakstone are longstanding and loyal members of the National Trust, which makes it all the more sad that the impression which they have of the Trust is misinformed in almost every way. Clearly the way in which we represent ourselves to at least some of our members needs to be improved.

It would take much too long to answer in this letter all the points made by Mrs Webb and Mr Theakstone but I hope that they might be able to attend our annual general meeting on 2 November so that I can explain to them what the Trust is really like nowadays. Lord Kitchener and Dr Wilks will no doubt be there too, to present their resolution.

CHARLES NUNNELLY  
Chairman, The National Trust  
London SW1

### Why the Dutch did not fight at Srebrenica

Sir: In Robert Fisk's article "The damning truth written on the pages of Document No 3206" (October 8) a United Nations order issued by the acting commander of Unprofor on 11 July 1995 to the Dutch UN commander in the Srebrenica enclave is presented as a new fact. The decision of the Dutch commander not to execute this order is presented as quite shameful.

However, Mr Fisk's interpretation is completely beside the facts. The document "revealed" by Mr Fisk was made public by the Netherlands Ministry of Defence a year ago in the official report on Srebrenica, based on an extensive briefing of Dutch UN personnel. In this report, which was widely distributed and translated into English, and in response to parliamentary questions, the UN order was described in full detail.

The reasons why the order could not be implemented by the Dutch UN commander were also given.

Fisk's military assessment of the situation, hours after the fall of Srebrenica itself, was that defending the military compound in Potocari would provoke heavy shelling by the Bosnian Serb army, which had completely surrounded this compound, in which Dutchbatt and thousands of refugees were present. This would have certainly meant a very high number of casualties, especially among the refugees.

It is important to note that this assessment was shared by Sector North East of Unprofor, which communicated its views to Unprofor headquarters. HANS VAN DER HEUVEL, Director of Information Ministry of Defence The Hague Netherlands

### Politicians bet their shirts on victory

Sir: As with many recent developments in UK politics, John Major's exposure of his shirt sleeves is an import from the United States ("Showing his shirt is Major's way of baring his soul", 11 October). The tactic dates from the 1988 presidential campaign between George Bush and Michael Dukakis. Trailing badly in the polls in the final week, the aloof and unworried Democratic candidate took off his jacket and rolled up his sleeves to symbolise "getting down to business" and even "spilling for a fight".

The media were mightily impressed, and wrote at length about this powerful subliminal message that he was "fighting back". The polls, however, didn't move and Dukakis lost heavily.

BEN RICH  
London EC4

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.



# the saturday story

The picture-postcard Utopia that is haven for the rich revealed its uglier side this week: snobbish, mean-minded, selfish, hypocritical. Peter Popham journeyed to a corner of England caught in a time warp: Surrey



Laurie Briggs, aged 13, was banned from a family golf competition in a Surrey club because he was adopted

Photograph: Chris Laurens

estate are guarded by closed-circuit television. The mansions have grand names like Somerton House or Edgeworth: elderly ladies in tweed exercise small dogs along the meandering, deserted lanes in the shade of the big trees.

Time has stopped here: at some perfect but unspecified point between the 1820s and the 1920s. Many of the newest houses are so huge they must have numerous staff. One imagines them touching their forelocks and living Downstairs.

The rich irony of St George's Hill is that, distinct from the fake past in which it is engrossed, it has a real history which speaks of an utterly different English tradition.

In 1649, after the Civil War, a labourer called Gerrard Winstanley, who herded cows in Walton-on-Thames, had a vision in which he was instructed to publish it abroad that "the earth should be made a common treasury of livelihood to whole mankind, without respect of persons". It was a vision of communist utopia, and on 1 April that year, Winstanley and up to 100 followers invaded St George's Hill and began to dig the land, insisting by their actions that the land belonged to everyone. They were called the Diggers: the community they instigated here lasted a year before it was finally put to flight.

The action of the Diggers was the high point of the English revolution that never happened. Winstanley was its prophet. "In the beginning of time," he wrote, "the great Creator, Reason, made the earth to be a common treasury ... did set up one man to teach and rule over another. And thereby ... man was brought into bondage ... And hereupon the earth ... was hedged into enclosures ... And that earth that is within this creation made a common storehouse for all, is bought and sold and kept in the hands of a few, whereby the great Creator is mightily dishonoured, as if he were a respecter of persons, delighting in the comfortable livelihood of some and rejecting in the miserable poverty and straits of others. From the beginning it was not so ...

Winstanley's revolution was not merely put to flight here on St George's Hill its utter opposite has been erected. If Winstanley's ghost were to wander these shady lanes, you would surely know it by the sound of uncontrollable weeping.

## Down the A3 to the Middle Ages

There is a corner of the Home Counties where the inhabitants live longer than elsewhere in Britain, where they earn more money, live in more splendid houses, drive more and bigger cars, enjoy more beautiful scenery. It is the lucky county, a little bit of California on the River Wey. It's called Surrey. It's also the county where this week 13-year-old Laurie Briggs was banned from a "families" golf competition because he was an adopted child.

Surrey is the epitome of southern England's picture-postcard charm. But it is also the incubator of all southern England's nastiest little ways, as the Briggs story exemplified: snobbish, mean-minded, selfish, hypocritical.

In case anyone has forgotten, the story went like this: at Burhill Golf Club, near Walton-on-Thames in one of the choicest parts of the county, Laurie, Brazilian by birth, had already progressed to the third round when another member complained that he was ineligible to

play in the competition, and he was duly disqualified. Only after a vast hullabaloo in the media - including the sort of papers which enjoy big Surrey circulations - was the ban reversed. For petty unpleasantness it was a tale that took some beating.

Surrey looks backwards to a past that is too pretty and perfect ever to have been true, and forwards to a future of ever-increasing privilege, ever-increasing disparity between the folks on the hill and the proles in the Kwik-Save. Surrey holds up a mirror to the aspirational middle-class values of the late Nineties. Look into it and squirm.

The county is, of course, one of the truest blue corners of the country, and the present clutch of MPs provides some useful clues to the Surrey breed.

Lady Olga Maitland, who represents Sutton and Cheam on the northern border of the county, is a Surrey person pushed to the point of parody, with her shrill bounding of criminals and scoundrels; she is also a real toff, which may explain why Sutton and Cheam

took her to its aspiring bosom (she had failed to endear herself to at least 20 other constituencies before).

Kenneth Baker, the smartest man in the House, with his prim vowels and his unctuous grin, is a fair representative of the species: the head-girlistness of Virginia Bottomley captures another aspect of the Surrey soul.

Yet the people who have done most to draw attention to the county over the past 25 years are rock stars. A form of life less compatible with the Toryism of the county is hard to imagine: yet a succession of millionaire rockers has settled here, including various Beatles, Eric Clapton, sundry members of Status Quo, Roxy Music and 10CC. And while they may still wear funny clothes and even pick up a guitar once in a while, it's a fair guess that Surrey changed them more than they changed Surrey.

They became part of the scene. When one Surrey property developer prominent in the Sixties, who has spent his wealth sedulously turning him-

self into a Surrey squire, staged a local miniature sort of Glyn-debourne for the diversion of the locals out Cobham way, in what they like to call High Surrey, Clapton himself turned up to play a set by the lake.

That is life among Surrey's immortals. The downside for ordinary people living amidst such a landscape of achievement is the social neurosis that pervades the county's life.

"Surrey has its own particularly hard kind of snobbery," says a local teacher who commutes every day from London.

"A friend of mine who recently moved to the county took her child along to a playgroup, and was dismayed when she got a rather cold reception. It was quietly pointed out to her that there was another playgroup it might be more suitable for her child to join. Socially the two were practically indistinguishable. She was baffled. Then she discovered that she came from the wrong side of the road."

"People in Surrey are very aware of their position on the ladder. They say things like, 'Addlestone [a relatively poor

village] is where you live while you're waiting to move on to Weybridge'."

The most vital ingredient of Surrey's appeal is its distinctness from London. Driving southwest towards Guildford on the A3, one quite suddenly emerges from the long shapeless expanse of Tudorbethan suburbs, and this is one of southern England's most brilliant effects, because suddenly you have arrived back in the Middle Ages, before the clearing of the forests.

Here you are, only a few miles out of a Europe's biggest city, and the ancient deciduous woodland stretches in wave after wave to the horizon, broken only (it seems) by this fast, sinuous road.

This is the most complete of Surrey's deceptions, the most successful of its lies. We are not in real countryside, but green belt. Surrey has little true country: farmers constitute 0.8 per cent of the county workforce - half the national average.

Over huge swathes of Surrey, the gorgeous green cover is densely infested with commuting life.

But it is certainly beautiful. And at about the same moment that the scenery dramatically improves, the rain clouds flee away and the sun comes out. I left London in a dank drizzle, and arrived in Cobham on a lovely autumn day.

I mentioned this fact to the Scottish woman serving me in Cobham's book shop. Her face flushed with complacent pride. "Och, that's what it's like down here," she trilled, beaming. "It always seems to turn out nice in these parts!"

That's the way it seems to these lucky people: a vista of permanent niceness. But those who have scaled the ladder of wealth emerge beyond the clouds into the realms of the awesome. This culminates, for the seriously rich, in a mansion in the guarded, gated estate of St George's Hill, on the outskirts of Weybridge and Walton-on-Thames, which is claimed to be the most exclusive and expensive estate in the country.

The smallest houses here cost £500,000, and the grandest mansions several million.

One cannot simply walk around St George's Hill at will. On the other private estates around these towns, which are numerous, zealously implemented Neighbourhood Watch schemes mean that any outsider gets a frank stare if he ventures to wander around. At St George's Hill, however, you don't even get past the front gate without a good reason. So I decided to start shopping around for a half-million pound home for my parents, whereupon a Weybridge estate agent was happy to give me a tour.

The estate is so large that it contains a full-sized golf course, which runs through the middle of it. Like much of wealthy Surrey, the estate inhabits a strange, idealised rich man's past, where the trees are deciduous and mature, the architecture is vaguely (but imposingly) Queen-Anne or Georgian, but the Bentleys are the latest model, the fabric of the house is likewise brand new, and the subsidiary entrances to the

## jo brand's week

Like comedy, political life contains very few women, even though women are gaining more than a foothold in other areas of work. In comedy, I think it is a confidence problem. Plenty of women try it, but many give up, because they find difficult audiences more damaging to their self-esteem. Blokes, on the whole, tend to have more confidence, or at least appear to. They're dead good at seeming to have things under control, which is half the battle.

I suppose politics is similar to comedy in several ways. You get a bit of a verbal mauling in the press, some heckling, and you are called upon to talk a fair bit of rubbish under pressure. So what's putting women off politics? Well, it could be the way in which women politicians continue to be scrutinised purely visually by a section of the press: the hours are difficult for women with families; and the House of Commons is like a boy's club at which bickering and point-scoring reign supreme. I suspect, however, that a fair few women might have been put off by some female role models and not least Gruppenführer Thatcher. Back this week at the Tory party conference, as humorous and rigid as ever, I expect many women think that if this is the prototype, maybe it's not worth bothering.

Eileen Heseltine, mother of Mick, wants children to be soundly thrashed, following an incident in which a friend of hers was hit with a stone thrown by some kids from the local council estate. Much as I sympathise with the poor woman, I would surmise that perhaps the kids throwing the stones have already had several sound thrashings and maybe that is why they are behaving like this. I wonder whether young Mick got leathered or not. It may explain a few things.

"What are you doing for Christmas?" I was asked today. I have absolutely no idea, apart from apparently being encouraged not to have a flu jab and agonising about which record is going to be number one on Jesus's birthday. Young and healthy people, according to the Chief Medical Officer, should not have a job because there are only six million available and they should be reserved for vulnerable people. Why don't they provide enough for everyone? Money, of course. So, all you big girls' blouses out there who can really cope with a bit of shivering, sweating and looking like a menopausal cod for a week, lay off the jobs. At least you can lie in bed and listen to the usual charming selection of aural seasonal offerings.

from Spice Girls to the cast of *Emmerdale*. On second thoughts, go and get a flu jab.

You might be surprised to learn that I've never been a fan of Miss World, and it seems I am not alone. Some people feel the same in India, where the hallowed contest will burst into the swimsuit-cleaved-I-want-world-peace which all know and largely ignore. However, in India, one group has threatened to set the venue alight and another slightly more committed mob have said that one of their group will commit suicide on each of the 17 days leading up to the contest. What dedication. Praise our protests in the shade.

It's remarkably pleasurable to see the underdog win. I was in Soho the other day and a lorry which picks up cars and takes them to the car pound was blocking our way. The man on the machinery was nearly finished with his job and a small crowd had gathered to watch. (And I bet you always thought Soho was a really exciting place.) He had attached wires to the wheels and began to haul the car up. As it rose to about two feet off the ground, a man appeared from nowhere, sprinted towards the car,



opened the door and dived in. At this point, the towaway man, thinking he would have a bit of fun, hoisted the car up another couple of feet and then jiggled it about a bit. Everyone was laughing, including a traffic warden standing by. Eventually, our hero was lowered rather roughly to the ground. He turned the ignition on immediately and sped away in a cloud of exhaust to an enthusiastic round of applause. Like life, though, it wasn't all great. The warden had just managed to slap a ticket on the car. No wonder he looked so cheerful.

The winner of a poll to find the nation's favourite post-war poem has been announced, and it is a piece about growing old disgracefully by Jenny Joseph. It is all about how, when the writer grows old, she will behave very badly, look ridiculous and please herself. It is reassuring to know that so many people like this poem, but confusing when you think how many older people eschew a life of wildness for blue perms, crimplene and endless bingo. Still, if an entire generation gets into its eighties and starts wearing purple and spending the pension on brandy, there are going to be some great parties.

I can't help thinking that the company that makes Wonderbras and the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity are strange bedfellows. The Wonderbra advertising campaign has,

after all, been based entirely on the assumption that if you don't have two flawless Zeppelins down your blouse that arrive several seconds before you do, then life ain't worth a thing. This country's mammary fixation has led many women to believe that losing one of these assets is the end of the world. Still, in this day and age, I suppose that any money is welcomed by charities, wherever it may be from.

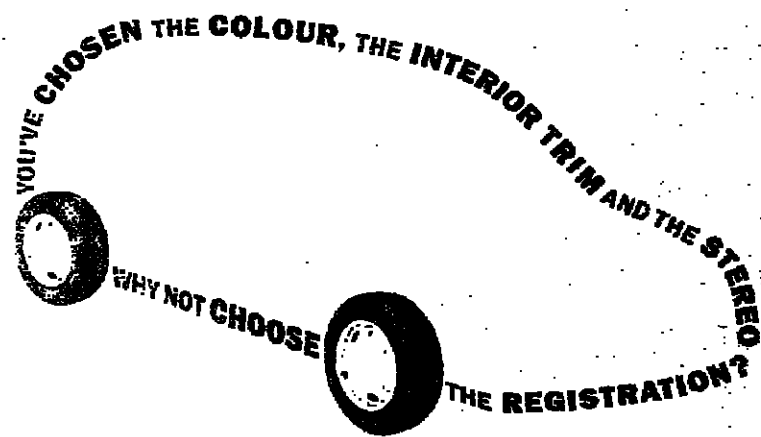
I often wondered if my name would ever make it to hurricane status and I was rewarded this week by the discovery that Hurricane Josephine was sweeping across the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricanes are quite predictable these days, due to the improved science of meteorology. In the old days, the only way you could tell if one was coming was to lick your finger and hold it up.

So when will Hurricane Josephine strike? Not tonight, possibly.

According to Sarah Biffen, wives of Cabinet ministers have had enough. So has the rest of the country, madam. Her main complaints are that her husband is always tired ... a positive advantage, I would have thought, in the case of some of the more unsavoury geezers in the Cabinet. Sarah Biffen's other complaint is that Cabinet wives are sick of going to state banquets. Apparently, the novelty wears off very quickly, and these poor women sound as though they believe that being grumpily forced to shove yet another morsel of expensive posh people's food down their throats is a fate worse than death.

Well, I am sure there are plenty of people in this country who haven't had a meal like this ever, who would be only too willing to fill in for them - or indeed fill them in, on the basis of that complaint. Moaning about this sort of privilege is not much of a vote catcher. I would have thought,

DVLA P-PREFIX SELECT REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE



call 0181 200 6565 today

To order your personalised registration first choose from one of the 53 special numbers to place after the initial P eg P10 (P1 carries a price premium). You now have the first half of your registration. Then add virtually any three letters (except I, Q and Z) to complete the registration. Have a few alternatives ready in case your first choice is not available. Next call the Registration Helpline. You can pay by Visa, Access or cheque. Prices start from £349. Even if you've already bought a new vehicle it's not too late to buy a DVLA Select Registration.

Many P, J, K, L, M, N and some A and H prefixes are still available. Following recent price reductions, all start from £250 (except B prefixes which start from £300). Numbers 1-20 are available with all prefixes. J, K, L, M and N prefixes have an even wider selection of 33 special numbers. Buy yours today quoting Ref 11210.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE YOUR REGISTRATION IS IN ANY WAY, DO NOT BUY. All numbers, letters and any examples used for illustrative purposes only. DVLA reserves the right to withhold certain registrations. Numbers which may be reserved for sale at auction. Numbers are sold subject to the Sale of Registration Mark Regulations. Registrations available for purchase are those not in the scope of the DVLA's select scheme. Certain combinations are sold on the basis of separate and certain Mark schemes are not available. Regs, notices and fees to be used to make a vehicle's registration.



Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

0181 200 6565



## regional variations

I used to think things we have in common are greater than the things that divide us

david aaronovitch



I won't be long now before an incoming Labour administration, red eyes gleaming, begins its malign job of breaking up the United Kingdom. I know this because I have been all week with the Tories in Bournemouth, and they told me about it. First Labour will give the Scots a parliament and the Welsh an assembly. The Scots parliament will fall out with Westminster and demand independence, and the sons of Cymru will follow suit. London will clamour for self-governance, Yorkshire will secede, Cornwall will demand enosis with Brittany.

On the face of it, this is a dreadful prospect. Are not the things we have in common (language, culture, hatred of Michael Howard, self-pity) greater than the things which divide us? I thought so until Thursday, when this newspaper carried a report on *Family Spending* (Stationery Office, £5.95). What this volume reveals has shattered my easy assumptions about our shared characteristics.

It is not so much the "what". This indicates that there are great differences in the way that the inhabitants of the various regions and nations of this, our island home, spend their money: 83 per cent of West Midlands have video recorders, compared with an average of 79 per cent. Yes? And?

It's the why that matters. What explains, for instance, why Northern Irish women spend vastly more on "outer garments" than anyone else? Why do those from Devon and Cornwall favour pets so much more than their compatriots in other parts? How come that Yorkshire folk top the washing machine league but have fewer tumble dryers than the rest of us? Does this tell us something rather fundamental about identity and behaviour?

Let us take these examples in turn. It cannot be true that the Ulster outer garment orgy is attributable to climate. The Scottish weather is arguably more inclement for more of the year. Are the

daughters of the province somehow less careful with their coats, always leaving them on the Giant's Causeway or something? Personally, I think it is down to chronic church attendance, and the desire to look good in front of the priest, vicar and congregation.

What about the pet lovers of the West Country? I am taken with an image of a stout Devonian entering a sweet shop, examining the cans of Coke and Sprite, and saying, "Sod it, I'll have a cat instead". Does Fanta taste bad in Taunton, or fur feel softer? A better explanation might lie in the well-ordered bungalows of the English Riviera, whose elderly inhabitants are more likely to find Luvacat giving them wind, and Tiddles giving them companionship.

Yorkshire's washing habits. I must confess, are a bigger problem to solve. A desire not to waste electricity cannot be the explanation for the aversion to tumble dryers; if it were, then Yorkshire folk would be less keen on washing machines. Is it because the wind to rain ratio is uniquely favourable, allowing clothes to be better dried in the open? Or is it a combination of large gardens and tiny houses that leads to this, an inheritance from Yorkshire's mining past, perhaps?

The one that I am not prepared to speculate about is the statistic showing that the Welsh spend less on cosmetics and hair products. My in-laws live just north of Cardiff, part of a vast extended family, and always look as though they have invested more than adequately in cleansing products.

Given these disparities, and the psychologies that lie behind them, the question must at least be asked whether the attempt to hold together these various different parts is as doomed to failure as is European federalism: as was the Soviet empire, and as will be the United States of America. Cards on the table: I, for one, do not really want to live in a society that loves pets, hates tumble dryers and can't look after its coats.

# A game of two halves: the rich and the poor

By Steve Boggan

You have just been woken up by your Manchester United alarm clock (£10), and you peer from beneath your Manchester Utd duvet (£30) at your bedroom wall, papered, of course, in Manchester Utd colours (£7 a roll). Switching on your Manchester Utd lamp (£17), you go into the bathroom, wash and dry off with your Manchester Utd towel (£10) ... and so on, until you turn in for the night and take off your Manchester United sports watch (£25).

This is modern day football. Gone are the days when you picked up your scarf and your rattle, and headed for the ground to claim your usual square foot of the terraces for about a fiver. Today, you are more likely to wear your £40 replica shirt and head for your £25 seat in the stands.

Football is big business. Yesterday, when Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards said he might consider selling the club if the price were right, he hinted that bidding should start at £400m. And there appears to be no shortage of takers.

The improvements in English football grounds imposed after the publication of the Taylor report into the 1989 Hillsborough disaster were the catalyst that began changing the face of the national sport. Making stadiums all-seater not only improved the game's image, but it also made clubs treat supporters like customers and not simply as terrace fodder.

Then, more importantly, came the formation of the Premier League and the injection of hundreds of millions of pounds - £670m for the next four seasons alone - from BSkyB in return for exclusive rights to broadcast live games. Football has been dragged into the satellite age.

With the money came the big-name players from abroad, increased attendances - up 33 per cent in 10 years - and a huge growth in sales of club merchandise. Manchester Utd alone shifts more than £20m worth of branded goods, from mugs to its own lager. Across all 92 clubs, the figure runs into hundreds of millions of pounds.

Crucially, it is this money, together with catering and conference incomes, that now has city investors circling for the first time.

In the past, results on the pitch could lead to wild fluctuations in the share prices of the six quoted clubs - Manchester Utd, Tottenham Hotspur, Celtic, Chelsea, Preston North End and Millwall. These, with Leeds Utd, whose owners, Caspian, are stock-market listed, have a total

market value in the region of £670m.

"Large investors have been waiting in the wings to see what happens with football, but now they are coming in and buying," said Victoria Wearing, assistant director of the Share Centre, a telephone trading service. "They used to be frightened off by the volatility of share prices because of on-the-pitch results, whereas now there is more stability because of the off-the-pitch business."

And it isn't only the big City types who are buying. Small investors too, are grabbing a piece of their favourite club. Since the Share Centre set up its football investors' ser-

vice last February, sales have increased by 700 per cent.

So, all the Premiership clubs are now rich, right? Wrong. Last season, the downside of the big time began to bite. In the search for more success, bigger crowds, higher television fees and a greater income from merchandising - the upwards spiral achieved by Manchester Utd - clubs were forced to spend more than ever before on players.

Between them, the 92 Premier and Football League clubs spent £110m on transfer fees a record. More than £30m went to buy foreign players. But that wasn't the end of the story. Across the four divi-

sions, the wages bill raced ahead of inflation, rising by 14 per cent to create a total pay packet of £243m. And in the Premier League, wages increased by 22 per cent. Some Premiership players - like the £15m Newcastle striker Alan Shearer - can command wages in excess of £20,000 a week.

Transfer fees and higher wages forced many clubs - even some in the Premiership - into the red. Across the board, English clubs made a pre-tax loss of £14.1m from a total income of £468m.

Even Everton, one of the richest clubs in the country, fell £9.4m into the red after splashing out £12.7m on play-

ers. And it's tougher still in the lower divisions. Only 20 per cent of clubs in the First, Second and Third Divisions made a profit. The future for them looks grim as the Premier League continues to increase its share of all football income.

"It may well be that clubs in the lower divisions have to go semi-professional and, at some point in the future, they may form regional leagues."

said Jason Hargaden of Deloitte & Touche. "But even the Premiership clubs are divided between the big clubs like Manchester Utd, Liverpool, Spurs, Everton and Arsenal, who have big crowds and lots of supporters, and the others who are struggling to keep up."

So what does the future hold? Where will the drive for profit drag the English game? Onwards and upwards, say the optimists. Into a financial mire, say the cynics.

The next big development will be pay-per-view channels owned by the clubs. You may no longer be able to take your son to the game - if you did, you wouldn't get much change out of £60 - but, with the expansion of cable and fibre optic technology, you will be able to have games beamed into your home live on a Saturday afternoon. At between £5 and £10 a game to view, the clubs stand to make a fortune.

After that, at some point in the next century, the experts predict that the superclubs' insatiable appetite for more money and more glamour will lead to the formation of a Euro-league. When that happens, the future for the likes of Grimsby doesn't look promising. And, unless you have deep pockets or regular access to the world of corporate entertaining, you can forget going to away matches.

The fans, those who remember standing for a fiver in the pouring rain, will again be the ones who lose out. The games will be televised - probably pay-per-view - and gate prices, which have already risen by 300 per cent in the past 10 years, will go up further.

"Clubs have never treated fans well," said David Blatt of the Football Supporters Association. "But now they are taking advantage by hiking up gate prices and worrying more about corporate hospitality than true supporters getting in to see their heroes."

"They exploit fans' loyalty and they'll carry on exploiting it because they know they can. They know it goes way beyond rational behaviour. It's true love."

Football is big business. When Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards said he might consider selling the club, he hinted that bidding should start at £400m



## The Lady's not for learning

As Margaret Thatcher quietly celebrates her 71st birthday tomorrow, the rejoicing could be marred by a small shadow.

After 11 years in office, and more than five years as Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher has come to a rather grim conclusion - that all is not as rosy as Tory Cabinet ministers might have had us believe in Bournemouth this week.

The woman who once suggested that there was no such thing as society - as opposed to the families and individuals who thrived, or merely survived, within it - made a very sombre speech last month.

She told the Institute of United States Studies, in London: "Liberty decays in an atmosphere where all is permitted and nothing is prohibited. The resulting permissive society is in fact no society at all."

Savour the words: let them marinate the mind. Soak them in and feel the bile rise. But, as you might expect of Lady Thatcher, there is more where that came from. She never did anything by halves.

"We have witnessed a coarsening of everything from art to music to literature to film. But for some people, there seems to be nothing beyond the pale - for them, freedom has no limits."

"The younger generation is being reared in a morally corrosive atmosphere where they are taught that anything goes. There is no elevation of the human spirit in works designed



Her regime was built on the use of ruthless freedoms, so just who is Baroness Thatcher to complain about the 'resulting permissive society', asks Anthony Bevins

merely to shock or to appeal only to our most base instincts."

Coming from the woman who used to pretend that some of her own Government's biggest blunders had nothing to do with her, but were always the fault of people who had kept her in the dark, this balderdash should not surprise us.

But it is curious that she limits the "coarsening of everything" to the world of art and culture. Why not politics, too? If freedom has no limits, might she not bear some responsibility for that?

After all, was not Thatcherism characterised by the unbridled use of power - power without limits - to beat up and beat down the perceived enemy within?

If anything goes, where did that come from? Who was it that appealed to "our most base instincts" - the money-grubbing, devil-take-the-hindmost culture in which the shop-doorway homeless and the privatised utility "fat cats" emerged as abiding monuments to Thatcherism?

What a cheek, what gall, what brass neck. For Thatcher of all people to turn round and wonder where all this came from is too much.

But it has to be remembered that Lady Thatcher actually believed the myth that was spun by her acolytes.

Recently asked to identify John Major's greatest achievement, one of his closest Cabinet allies, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said: "Building

on Margaret Thatcher's great achievements."

That rather begged the question - yes, but just what were her great achievements? "Margaret Thatcher's great achievement," according to Lang, "was to start the modernisation of Britain, to liberate the enterprise of the British people, to remove the dead hand of the state, and to give freedom its due."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, put it rather more reflectively - and accurately - in his Centre for Policy Studies lecture in Bournemouth on Thursday night.

"We have restored our national self-confidence," he said. "In the early years of this Conservative Government, we achieved that by showing iron resolve over the Falkland Islands abroad and in banishing the British disease at home, culminating in the government being prepared to face up to, and in the end face down, the year-long miners' strike."

It is curious that a man who appears as civilised as Mr Rifkind, an Edinburgh lawyer of moderate Tory tendencies, should volunteer a link between the Falklands and the miners' strike.

For some of those who were closest to Margaret Thatcher in the early years - those who created Thatcherism before she even knew it existed - grew to detest the style that emerged from the two "wars" - against the Argies and the miners.

Observing her at close quar-

ters, over some years, they witnessed the way in which Margaret Thatcher began to lash out at all-comers, using variously the gun, the baton and then the handbag against all opponents - even those within her own Cabinet.

If she could take on and beat the Argentinians and the miners, there could be no stopping her. The might of the Soviet Union, the back-door socialism of Brussels, the socialism of British Labour - all became targets, which she hit with varying degrees of accuracy.

But she became indiscriminate. Taking on local government with the poll tax rather missed the target, although she would never admit it. She did subsequently admit that the Single European Act, with its sacrifice of sacred sovereignty to the free market, was a sacrifice too far.

There has never been any apology, however. That is not her style. Thatcherism never made mistakes; it was seamless, pure, perfect.

Rampant and excessive trade union power was curbed; monopolistic and impersonal nationalised industries were privatised. They were replaced by rampant and excessive management power to put people on insecure, short-term, part-time, low-pay contracts - and by equally monopolistic and impersonal privatised industries.

And, as *The Independent* has revealed, there is pitiful little left to show for all privatised industry revenues, North Sea oil

revenues, high-level public sector borrowing and debt, and the record peaks of personal tax burden that have accompanied the years of "modernisation".

But if one symbolic action illustrates Thatcherism more than any other, it is the way in which the teachers were treated. It was as Secretary of State for Education in the Heath administration that Margaret Thatcher came to public attention when she cut free milk for secondary schools and earned the title "Thatcher, Milk Snatcher". She never seemed to have much time for teachers, and it showed when she became Prime Minister in 1979.

Over the years, she treated them like scum, with a contempt they did not deserve. If the education system was not delivering, it was their fault. Derided, scorned, spurned and publicly vilified, the teachers were just one more Thatcher target. Because they were more vulnerable than other groups, they got a specially good kicking.

Then Tories wonder why some children are unruly, why some parents show no respect for the teachers. Remember, it only takes some children and some parents to go bolshie for the whole system to break down.

So, happy birthday Lady Thatcher. Perhaps you will have time tomorrow to reflect that it is easier to destroy than to build. You destroyed more than you built. Having smashed the bottle on so many heads, it is no use now crying over spilt milk.

SHE HAS NOWHERE LEFT TO TURN.



PLEASE DON'T TURN THE PAGE

You could be Tsering's last hope. She has little or no food to eat, and lives in a tiny, insanitary mud shack. Without help soon she could die.

Yet by sponsoring an elderly person like Tsering for just £10 a month, you could provide the food, clothing and medicines they need to survive.

In return, you'll receive regular reports on your adopted grandparent. For more details, please complete the form below.

Yes, I'm interested in helping an elderly person overseas. Please send me details.

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms

Address

Postcode

Tel. No.

Return to: Helen Riggs, Adopt a Granny, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1JY.

Or phone 0171 255 0253

Help the Aged Adopt a Granny Registered Charity No 270250



# Pru among big insurers giving poor value



Peter Davis: Pru ranks amongst highest chargers

NIC CICUTTI

Insurance companies with the biggest market share often sell the worst value life and pension products to their clients, according to new research for the *Independent*.

Successful, and high-charging, life companies include Prudential and Royal Insurance, which recently merged with Sun Alliance, another expensive company.

Research carried out by John Chapman, a former official at the Office of Fair Trading, suggests that some companies win new business through employing large sales forces rather than by offer-

ing competitive products. The link between quality of products and success in the marketplace is an extremely loose one.

Companies which sell predominantly through independent financial advisers, including Standard Life and Norwich Union, are among the cheapest.

Only one among the cheapest companies, Equitable Life, which sells solely through its own sales force, is also in the top rank on sales. Equitable, whose managing director is Roy Ranson, won £437m of premium income last year.

A large slice of this comes through its dominance of the market for additional voluntary

contribution schemes to company pensions, of which it has a 50 per cent slice.

Figures from *Money Management*, a specialist magazine, show that Prudential, whose chief executive is Peter Davis, grabbed £446m of new annualised premium income in 1995, more than any other insurer.

Yet the company's charges are among the highest in the industry, according to a new measuring yardstick developed by Mr Chapman for the OFT. His system shows the Pru as having a below-average rating across its range of products.

The OFT-backed measurement follows new rules, intro-

duced in 1995, that force the industry to disclose how much they charge on the products they sell.

His survey comes as the industry faces a new pressure for reform. The BBC's *Panorama* programme on Monday is set to show that company charging structures are still too opaque and people do not understand if they are being over-charged.

Mr Chapman's system examines how much is charged by a company if a person wants to surrender a product or transfer a pension in the early years. The same is done mid-way through a policy and at the end. Companies are allocated a rating from A to C, where C is below

average and A is excellent. Prudential received a CCC-rating, meaning that the charges it levies are heavy throughout the life of its policies.

Separate figures collated by *Money Magazine*, another specialist magazine, show that someone taking out a with-profits pension with the Pru pays annual charges of 2.5 per cent of the value of a fund over 25 years. This rises to 4.6 per cent over 10 years.

Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, now Royal & Sun Alliance, won more than £150m in annualised premium income last year. On the same pension product, the companies charge between 2 and 2.5 per cent a

year over 10 years and 4.1 to 4.8 per cent of a fund's value each year over 25 years.

About half of premium income was brought in by both companies' salesforces and tied agency operations.

Other companies which successfully attract large volumes of policyholders funds include "bancassurers" set up by high street banks. Barclays Life, which took £89.8m last year, placing it in the top 30, narrowly pipped NatWest, Black Horse, Abbey National, Midland and TSB, all of whom still vacuumed up large amounts in premiums.

Details in the Money Pages. The Long Weekend



Roy Ranson: Equitable Life offers lowest charges

## Pound at strongest level for two years

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

The pound surged yesterday to its highest level for nearly two years, propelled by expectations that a booming economy will mean higher interest rates and by post-Tory conference euphoria.

As John Major pledged to cut taxes and increase health spending, the pound climbed above DM2.41 for the first

time since January 1995. It ended the day nearly two pence higher at DM2.4124, and its index against a range of currencies added 0.6 points to reach 87.8.

The financial markets are now betting that base rates will increase before the likely election date, following disappointing inflation figures on Thursday. Indeed, futures prices point to a quarter-point rise in interest rates to 6 per

cent before the new year and a further rise to 6.5 per cent by next summer.

The change of view about interest rate policy reflects the mounting evidence that the pace of growth is picking up. Minutes of last month's meeting between Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, published this week revealed that the Bank thinks there is a

"significant risk" of missing the inflation target if the Chancellor does not tighten monetary policy.

Official figures on Thursday showed that the underlying inflation rate increased last month. It was 2.9 per cent in September, up from 2.8 per cent, compared with the 2.5 per cent target.

The political mood also helped to propel the pound upwards yesterday. Traders said that overseas investors seemed to like the outcome of the Conservative Party conference.

Chris Turner, currency strategist at BZW, said: "There has been a fair amount of overseas interest in sterling since Tony Blair visited the US. That makes it a bit surprising that investors reacted well to the Tories this week, but they did."

He warned that investor sentiment might shift back the other way, especially if the financial markets also conclude that their interest rate expectations are overdone.

Figures on US inflation and retail sales yesterday suggested there would be no pressure on the Federal Reserve to change interest rates on the other side of the Atlantic.

Prices charged by manufacturers at the factory gate rose 0.2 per cent last month to a level 2.9 per cent higher than a year earlier. This was lower than the previous month and less than analysts had expected.

"Core" producer prices, excluding the volatile food and energy components, have risen only 1.4 per cent during the past 12 months. Higher energy and gasoline prices, reflecting the higher price of crude oil, explained the difference between the core and headline rates.

There was a big increase in retail sales in September. But the impact of the 0.7 per cent rise was offset by a big downward revision to the August sales figure. The Commerce Department changed its initial estimate of a 0.2 per cent increase to a 0.2 per cent drop instead.



Cliveden, the fledgling luxury hotels group, has returned to its roots with the £8.5m acquisition of the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath (above) from Queens Moat Houses, writes Magnus Grimond. The hotel was acquired for £187,000 in 1979 by a company controlled by John Thum, John Lewis and James Crathorne, three of the principals behind Cliveden, before

being sold for £7.5m in 1987 to Norfolk Capital, the hotel group which Queens Moat acquired in 1990.

Cliveden came to the stock market earlier this year with the aim of developing a chain of exclusive hotels based on the stately home formerly owned by the Astor family. The group said Cliveden had raised room rates by an average of 5.5 per cent to

£245 since 1987, compared with just 1.7 per cent to £113m at the Royal Crescent over the past nine years. But it had confidence a "material increase" in room rates could be achieved following a refurbishment to be completed by next autumn. Cliveden's shares were unchanged at 74.5p yesterday.

Photograph: Charlie Varley/SW News

## Small companies set for a buoyant future

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Smaller company bosses are more confident about growth prospects than at any time in the past two years amid signs that the buoyancy of the consumer sector is poised to spill over into general industrial businesses. Earnings growth of almost 20 per cent a year for the next two years is expected to coincide with continued low inflation to create a strong background for smaller company shares.

Those are some of the findings of the latest SBC Warburg smaller company survey, which shows a marked upturn in con-

fidence over the past six months since the last two-year study. Among general industrial companies, more than one in two businesses say they have become more confident over the past 12 months. A balance of one in five expects orders to be easier to secure and more companies are reporting increased output.

The improvement in sentiment reported by 332 heads of companies with market values of under £350m follows a long period of destocking which squeezed margins in many businesses and resulted in a steady downgrading of profits forecasts during the current year and a spate of profits warnings.

Warburg's Richard Hickinbotham and Darren Winder said the strength of responses in the survey made them much more confident that bullish forecasts for 1997 and 1998 would be maintained. Warburg's average forecast for its smaller companies predicts an 18 per cent earnings per share increase next year and 17 per cent during the following year. Latest estimates are that earnings will have grown 7 per cent this year.

That compares with forecasts of under 7 per cent earnings growth for FTSE 100 constituent companies and 13 per cent for the FTSE 250.

"Core" producer prices, excluding the volatile food and energy components, have risen only 1.4 per cent during the past 12 months. Higher energy and gasoline prices, reflecting the higher price of crude oil, explained the difference between the core and headline rates. There was a big increase in retail sales in September. But the impact of the 0.7 per cent rise was offset by a big downward revision to the August sales figure. The Commerce Department changed its initial estimate of a 0.2 per cent increase to a 0.2 per cent drop instead.

## City salaries increase by 25%

JILL TREANOR  
Banking Correspondent

The City's high fliers are being lured to new employers by promises of basic salary increases of around 25 per cent and for the first time in 10 years there is demand for staff in all areas of financial services, according to a leading firm of City headhunters.

Jonathan Wren's October survey of pay scales in the City shows that the average age of chief executives in the treasury markets is 32 and their average salary is £106,897.

That is the most basic compensation package and does not include the much-coveted bonuses which can double pay deals.

NatWest, which this week

acquired the investment boutique Hambro Mogan, is thought to have tied 120 senior staff in the combined corporate finance arm with golden handcuffs worth £1m apiece.

So far, 1996 has been an excellent year for the City. Stock markets have rallied and a bumper crop of mergers and acquisitions has generated much activity among the corporate financiers who arrange the deals.

And more and more top-ranking professionals are prepared to leave their jobs in the middle of the financial year by guaranteed bonuses, designed to compensate them for any pay-out they would have received by their previous employer.

These guarantees usually last for only the first year and only

in exceptional circumstances extend beyond that.

"Generally speaking, when they move they get a rise of 15 to 25 per cent which is why you are seeing quite a lot of people moving," said Roger Stearns, chief executive of Jonathan Wren. In contrast, staff who stay with their employers are likely to see pay rises of 3 to 5 per cent.

"Demand is present right across the board. That's the first time we've seen that since Big Bang," Mr Stearns said.

The Jonathan Wren survey shows that a chief treasury dealer with 10 years' experience is likely to be earning a basic salary of £165,436.

Foreign exchange dealers with one year's experience, aged around 24, earn an average salary of £50,007. With 10

years' experience, the dealer will be earning £104,727.

Options dealers in foreign exchange earn £53,045 with one year's experience but close to £100,000 after ten years in the markets.

In capital markets, a syndicate official can expect to earn £60,778 with five years' experience. A gilt trader with one year's experience, aged 31, is earning £53,675. A researcher, average age 26 with one year's experience, earns £31,890.

Equities traders, with one year's experience, are earning £43,194, while sales staff are earning £36,903.

Mergers and acquisitions professionals with one year's experience are earning £47,400, rising by £20,000 with 10 years' experience.

## Names up in arms as Lloyd's sends out writs

JOHN WILLOCK

Dissident names reacted with fury yesterday to writs issued by Lloyd's of London in the insurance market's drive to recoup a total of £500m in unpaid bills.

"I'm absolutely and completely incensed and enraged," said Sally Noel yesterday, after receiving a demand for £297,000 from Lloyd's.

Lloyd's is seeking to recover money from around 1,800 names who have refused to accept Lloyd's £3.2bn compensation deal for losses incurred

by the market in recent years. Altogether 127 individuals have received a total of 207 writs under the Lloyd's debt collection programme. Some face two separate demands, one for central fund debt and another for general losses.

David Harris, a leader of the newly formed dissident investors' group, the United Names Organisation (UNO), has received two writs, which together total a "six-figure sum".

"UNO has been set up with the specific intention of defending names against these

writs. Now we can lodge our defence and go in with a counterclaim," said Mr Harris.

As for his own writ, he said: "These are crazy figures, they haven't been audited, they are all wrong. They have just been plucked almost out of the air."

Mr Harris said he had heard several names had been served with writs demanding more than £1m.

Mrs Noel, co-chairman of UNO, was "very angry" when she received her writ. "How dare Mr Rowland [chairman of Lloyd's] serve me a writ. I'm in-

nocent. I've never been guilty of not paying a debt in my life. I'm going to be cutting it [the writ] up. I will fight Mr Rowland to the death."

Sue Dingwall, a partner with solicitors Dibb Lupton Alsop, is part of the Lloyd's debt collection team which sent out the writs. She said yesterday: "This is a rolling process. We have started with UK names. Next week we will continue with other UK and overseas names. We hope to have our first judgement before Christmas."

Lloyd's sent warning letters at the beginning of the month to those about to receive writs. Many had then written back to Dibb Lupton, Lloyd's or their agents, seeking a resolution, she said. According to Lloyd's, about 60 dissidents have sought talks after receiving the letters.

"A proportion" had paid up, said Ms Dingwall, one being a payment for £59,000. Mr Harris said he heard of some people paying up when faced with a writ. "These are frightening tactics by Lloyd's," he said.

Mrs Noel said that those who had signed up to the

Lloyd's restructuring had abandoned their rights to legal redress. She said that in two years' time if Equitas, the vehicle for Lloyd's past claims, was insolvent "as I'm sure it will be," they would regret signing.

"These crippling demands will drive more people to suicide," she said.

Catherine MacKenzie Smith, another official of UNO, said that names receiving writs should contact UNO. "We are passing these writs on directly to our solicitor, David Freeman, and our two QCs."

Lloyd's restructuring had abandoned their rights to legal redress. She said that in two years' time if Equitas, the vehicle for Lloyd's past claims, was insolvent "as I'm sure it will be," they would regret signing.

"These crippling demands will drive more people to suicide," she said.

Catherine MacKenzie Smith, another official of UNO, said that names receiving writs should contact UNO. "We are passing these writs on directly to our solicitor, David Freeman, and our two QCs."

## Bid rumours lift Man United

TOM STEVENSON

Private investors piled into Manchester United shares yesterday in anticipation of a bid for the football club, ignoring blanket denials from rumoured suitors and a statement from the company that it had received no approaches. The shares closed 61p higher at 513.5p.

Institutions were understood to have taken profits on the shares, which have soared from under 200p at the beginning of the year, using the surge of interest from small investors to lighten their holdings. Volumes exceeded half a million shares yesterday, unusually active trading for the stock.

The rapid rise in United's shares has partly reflected the potential profits expected to flow from a lucrative new television deal with BSKyB, but it has largely been fuelled by takeover speculation.

The rumour mill received a boost yesterday by a newspaper article quoting Martin Edwards, chief executive, as saying: "Any successful company is an attractive takeover prospect. People are going to look at it, so it could well be the subject of more takeover proposals."

The speculation took the market capitalisation of the

club to over £300m where it remained despite a statement pouring cold water on the rumours. "We have noted the recent media coverage suggesting that Manchester United has received an approach which may lead to an offer being made for the company. The board is not aware of any proposals."

United is understood to have rejected a takeover bid from publishing group VCI earlier this year which valued the club at £300m. The company made no announcement about those talks at the time, claiming that they did not constitute a formal approach, despite the apparent financial backing of HSBC.

The most recent speculation has linked the brewer Whitbread and the television and leisure group Granada with the club, although both companies have denied any involvement.

A spokesman for Whitbread said: "The report is complete rubbish. We would love to buy the club but we have many beer drinkers in Liverpool, Newcastle and Chelsea." Granada is known to be interested in developing a magazine television channel with the club, but it is thought to be too busy digesting its recent purchase of Forte to contemplate a move on Manchester United.

STOCK MARKETS					
FTSE 100		Dow Jones		Nikkei	
4000	6110	8000	22000	14000	22000
3900	6000	7900	21400	13800	21400
3800	5900	7800	20800	13600	20800
3700	5800	7700	20200	13400	20200
3600	5700	7600	19600	13200	19600
3500	5600	7500	19000	13000	19000
3400	5500	7400	18400	12800	18400
3300	5400	7300	17800	12600	17800
3200	5300	7200	17200	12400	17200
3100	5200	7100	16600	12200	16600
3000	5100	7000	16000	12000	16000
2900	5000	6900	15400	11800	15400
2800	4900	6800	14800	11600	14800
2700	4800	6700	14200	11400	14200
2600	4700	6600	13600	11200	13600
2500	4600	6500	13000	11000	13000
2400	4500	6400	12400	10800	12400
2300	4400	6300	11800	10600	11800
2200	4300	6200	11200	10400	11200
2100	4200	6100	10600	10200	10600
2000	4100	6000	10000	10000	10000
1900	4000	5900	9400	9800	9400
1800	3900	5800	8800	9600	8800
1700	3800	5700	8200	9400	8200
1600	3700	5600	7600	9200	7600
1500	3600	5500	7000	9000	7000
1400	3500	5400	6400	8800	6400
1300	3400	5300	5800	8600	5800
1200	3300	5200	5200	8400	5200
1100	3200	5100	4600	8200	4600
1000	3100	5000	4000	8000	4000
900	3000	4900	3400	7800	3400
800	2900	4800	2800	7600	2800
700	2800	4700	2200	7400	2200
600	2700	4600	1600	7200	1600
500	2600	4500	1000	7000	1000
400	2500	4400	400	6800	400
300	2400	4300	0	6600	0
200	2300	4200	0	6400	0
100	2200	4100	0	6200	0
0	2100	4000	0	6000	0

INTEREST RATES							
Short sterling*		UK medium gilt		US long bond			
* 100% basis unless stated		1 January 1985					
Money Market Rates			Bond Yields +				
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Duration Bond (%)	Year Age	Long Bond (%)	Year Age	
UK	5.78	6.25	7.47	8.07	7.60	8.18	
US	5.38	6.00	6.58	5.97	6.85	6.31	
Japan	4.44	0.63	2.77	2.71	-	-	
Germany	3.03	3.16	9.93	6.54	6.87	-	
* Bancmark indices							
MAIN PRICE CHANGES							
Index	Price (¢)	% Change	Change	Falls	Price (¢)	% Change	% Change
Courtaulds Textile	300	13.5	4.7	Telewest Comm	122.5	3.5	2.8
Plaxton Group	99.5	4	4.2	Electronics	398	8.6	2.1





JEREMY WARNER

'Monetary union is an act of faith. Until it is tried, it is hard to tell what its effects might be'

## Pro-EMU business lobby is speaking out at last

One of the oddest and most disturbing things about European Monetary Union is just how little serious analysis and debate it has generated. This in itself may seem an odd thing to say about an issue which is always in the headlines, is making a reasonable list of destroying the Conservative Party, and has even been known to cause the odd bar-room brawl. But if you think about it, it is true. The debate is conducted almost entirely at a political level, both here and on the Continent.

The argument here in Britain is between those who want to be a part of Europe and those who don't; on the Continent, EMU is an act of faith, a way of binding Europe together to ensure that never again will there be war or dissension between nations. But look for the serious economic analysis and polemic, and there's hardly any. Certainly there's nothing to compare with the Cecchini report on the likely effects of the single European market.

In fact, this is because EMU is indeed an act of faith. Until it is tried, it is hard to tell what its effects might be. We know that it will involve a not insignificant reduction in transaction costs, but we don't know much about its other economic effects. Nor do we really know whether it is possible to have both monetary union and, as envisaged, a continuation of independent national fiscal and social policies.

The questions are asked, but hardly ever is there a serious attempt to answer them. On the latter question, for instance, you either believe it will be possible or that it won't; the debate rarely rises above this simple statement of position. So it is refreshing to hear that big business, which constitutes one of the few pro-EMU lobbies in Britain, is planning to step up its efforts to air these issues.

Niall FitzGerald, newly appointed chairman of Unilever, is planning a full frontal attack on the anti-EMU brigade, which will be delivered from a businessman's perspective in a Chatham House speech next week. At its conference next month, the CBI promises a Euro debate, with David Simon, chairman of BP, and Peter Sutherland, chairman and managing director of Goldman Sachs (Europe), putting the case in favour of EMU. So as not to alienate its strong anti-EMU constituency, the CBI is lining up John Redwood and Sir John Hoskyns to put the other side of the case.

Mr FitzGerald makes an obvious champion of EMU. For a start, he's Irish. He also runs a company which is as strongly Dutch as it is British. Unilever is owned by two holding companies, one British and one Dutch, but it is run as a unified whole. If Holland were in, but Britain out, it would create the most horrendous problems. Furthermore, if the economic consequences of

being out were bad enough, then Unilever's rarely used mutual equalisation pact might have to be called on; assets would have to be transferred from the Dutch company to support the British.

Mr FitzGerald's concerns about being out go beyond these specific practical difficulties, however. At present all Unilever toilet soap for the European market is produced from a factory near Liverpool. That strategy and others like it will have to be rethought if Britain stays out.

Mr FitzGerald is only one of the most vocal in a growing body of business opinion. Slowly but surely, the pro-EMU business lobby is emerging from the closet. It is easy to see why this is such a painful and difficult process. There can scarcely have been a more pro-business administration – not since the last century anyway – than the one that has ruled Britain for the past 17 years. And yet as the rest of Europe hurtles down the path of monetary union, the Government becomes progressively more Euro-sceptic. There are now just two pro-EMU politicians left in the Cabinet, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, and even they feel constrained in what they say. In public at least, they are gagged. The rest have run for cover. Even Michael Howard, once upon a time a convinced pro-European, now speaks the language of the rabid Euro-sceptic.

In these circumstances, it doesn't seem surprising that business too should hold its tongue and hedge its bets. Rarely does it pay to bite the hand that feeds you. All the same, a number of our leading multinationals are beginning to feel distinctly uncomfortable about their rabbit-like position, held in the glare of EMU's headlights. More of them are planning to speak out.

There has also been a subtle, but quite significant, shift in their position in recent months. Up until now, the pro-EMU view in Britain has generally been of the half-hearted variety espoused by Lord Kingsdown's committee on monetary union. Horribly simplified, it goes something like this: we're not really sure whether EMU is a good thing or not, but what we are sure of is that if it does go ahead and we are not in it, then that will be bad for Britain. In other words, if you can't beat them, join them.

The new view, championed by business leaders such as Messrs FitzGerald and Simon, is much more positively pro-EMU. EMU is a good thing, we should definitely be in from the start, the consequences would be dire if we were not. As always, the message has to be exaggerated to drive the point home. And yet it is still tempered up to a point.

Most of us British exponents of monetary union are still worried about the timetable. An alarming degree of fudge is required to

meet these very tight self-imposed deadlines. Even accepting that the Maastricht criteria define an adequate degree of convergence, which in itself is debatable, the massaging of national accounts going on makes it highly questionable that the required convergence is being achieved. If as a consequence, EMU falls apart within a few years of start-up, that will be the end of it, if not for good, certainly for a generation or more.

So if you believe in EMU, which many of our world-class companies do, then it is by no means a contradiction to think that we are also moving much too swiftly towards it. The fact that we are is a Franco-German mistake. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, wouldn't be caught dead admitting it, of course, but close observers of these things have noted an ever so slight shift in his position in recent months. Egged on by the Bundesbank, guardian of the strong Deutschmark, it is just remotely possible he is preparing to adjust his position and put back the timetable a year or two.

That may be wishful thinking, of course, but it shouldn't stop our leading companies arguing for it. We cannot afford to baffle something as important as this. If as a Brit, it is hard to say this with much conviction, that is only because we all still feel too much like the outsider, proselytising about somebody else's club. If we said it as committed Europeans, then we might actually get heard.

## Bloomberg to run 24-hour news

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

Bloomberg, the financial data company, is to launch a 24-hour all-news channel in the UK next year, as part of the BSkyB digital multichannel package.

The company, owned 70 per cent by former merchant banker Michael Bloomberg, is also lining up European deals to carry localised versions of its television

service, which is already available in the US. A French-language service will be launched on 18 November as part of the Canal Plus package.

Bloomberg-branded television is already broadcast on a limited basis in the UK, including on Sky News. But the 24-hour format will be made possible by the greatly expanded capacity afforded by BSkyB's digital satellite service,

due to be launched in the autumn of 1997.

Sky is expected to launch with at least 100 channels, adding other services over time. In addition to its analogue range, which is likely to migrate to the digital platform, Sky has signed deals with other broadcasters to join the digital bouquet in time for the launch.

There are also plans to offer pay-per-view sport and films, as well as Internet connections and electronic banking.

The Bloomberg television channel will be produced in London, at the company's City offices. Mr Bloomberg, who confirmed the digital plans in an interview with the *Independent*, conceded that television revenues are likely to be small next to the \$330m the company earned last year from the sale of its terminals and related financial information services. "It's hard to see what you might call the media businesses generating anything like the business that the terminals generate," Mr Bloomberg said. "That part of our business is growing at 30 per cent. We'd have to be awfully successful at television to come close to that."

## Sky prepares to launch digital television boxes

BSkyB is poised to announce the launch of its set-top box for digital satellite, and will select three manufacturers to supply the equipment within two weeks, writes *Matthew Horsman*. Pace Microtechnology is expected to be a preferred supplier.

The boxes, which will allow subscribers to receive Sky's digital television service, will also include a high-speed modem for Internet connection. BSkyB has the backing of telecoms giant BT and Barclays Bank. BSkyB hopes to attract the help of manufacturers and

retailers to ensure the boxes cost no more than £200, despite indications that the current retail price for similar equipment is about £400.

BSkyB has developed a dual-track strategy to sell digital equipment through the high street and to supply boxes directly to analogue customers who want to upgrade to digital. The company is eager to protect its 3.8 million analogue subscriber base, even as it attempts to convert as many as possible to the new digital service.

## Majestic plans to float on AIM

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Majestic Wine, the UK's largest wine warehouse chain, is planning a flotation on the Alternative Investment Market next month to fund expansion of its 59 outlets out of the company's south of England heartland.

Raising £2m of new money, the flotation will put a value of about £20m on the company, which will be 70 per cent-owned by John Apthorp, the 61-year-old founder of Bejam, who ran the freezer stores group for 20 years until its acquisition by Iceland in 1989.

Majestic, which made operating profits before exceptional items of £1.24m in the year to April from sales of £40.1m, emerged from the combination of Majestic Wine Warehouses with Wizard Wine, formerly part of Iceland, in 1991. It accounts for just under 2 per cent of the still wine sold in Britain and 6 per cent of champagne sales.

Majestic differentiates itself from high street off-licences and supermarkets with an emphasis on customer service – 80 per cent of its staff are graduates – a wide stock range, on-site parking, the ability to taste wines every day and free delivery.

Since 1994, pre-exceptional profits have grown from £449,000. Pro-forma earnings per share of 3.5p that year grew to 6.6p in 1995 and 9.7p in the year to last April.

The average spend per customer at a Majestic warehouse was £84 last year, reflecting the requirement to buy at least one case per purchase and a tendency for the group's predominantly middle-aged target audience to buy increasingly expensive wines. More than half the wines sold at Majestic are from France, with 27 per cent from the New World.

### IN BRIEF

• Sales growth in the international music industry slowed down in the first half of 1996, a survey from the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry said. Worldwide sales amounted to \$16.2bn (£10.3bn), an increase of only 0.2 per cent over the same period in 1995 and a fall in real terms. Volumes rose by 5 per cent in the same period, with unit sales rising to \$1.25bn.

• Airtours, the UK's second-biggest travel company, has set up a tour operating business in California. It will trade as Sunquest Holidays and operate from Los Angeles. The company said the number of potential customers in California was roughly equal to that of the UK market. Sunquest Holidays will form part of a division to be called the North American Leisure Group under the management of Leo Desrochers, chief executive of Airtours' Canadian tour operations. Sunquest will start operations in April and will provide holidays from departure points in Southern California to destinations in Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean.

• Steena Line said it would close its ferry service between Southampton and Cherbourg in France at the end of December and replace it with a service between Portsmouth and Cherbourg. It said the change was due to falls in passenger volumes. The new route and the introduction of one of its new high-speed ferries would help to boost volumes and profitability, the company said.

• Berry Birch & Noble has agreed to sell part of its insurance broking business to Lloyd's brokers, Thompson Heath & Bond, for £166,000. The transfer is part of the commercial insurance broking account, but does not include any private medical insurance or permanent health insurance, or any life and pensions business. The value of the brokerage income earned on the business to be sold for the last year to September was £221,000.

• Alpha Airports, the in-flight catering and airport shops group, warned of continuing difficult markets for its catering business as it reported an 11 per cent drop in interim profits to £10m. The group moved last month to eliminate losses in its US kitchens, which climbed from £0.5m to £1.8m in the half year, by selling the business for £5.8m. The group said the disposal would enable it to refocus operations on markets where it is strongest and best placed to counter competitive pressures.

• Campbell & Armstrong, the shopfitters, unveiled comprehensive refinancing proposals yesterday which, if accepted, will lead to the relisting of its shares, which were temporarily suspended on 1 August. The company plans to place 65 million new ordinary shares at 5p each to raise £2.77m, coupled with a debt-for-equity swap with its bankers, NatWest. It also plans to make an open offer to qualifying shareholders of 14.44 million ordinary shares at 5p per share, on the basis of one new ordinary share for one existing ordinary share. The debt-equity swap will enable the company to repay nearly £4m to NatWest. Campbell is seeking approval for the appointment of Gil Thompson as non-executive deputy chairman and John Cowburn as finance director. The company also announced a pre-tax loss of £7.99m for the 13 months to 31 January.

• Select Appointments, the employment agency, said it planned to raise around £30m from a listing on the US Nasdaq market. The public offering, planned for November, is to be accompanied by a sale of shares by existing shareholders to raise £13.5m at current prices. The news came as Select announced nearly doubled pre-tax profits of £8m in the six months to June and said it would restore the interim dividend to 1p. Boosted by acquisitions since the beginning of last year, sales soared 77 per cent to £161m. The company said it was "confident of a successful outcome for the year as a whole".

## OUR MERSEYSIDE WORKFORCE IS ENERGETIC, WITH POSITIVE IDEAS FLYING AROUND THE PLANT. THEY ARE EXCELLENT TEAM PLAYERS

There's more to building a workforce than simply pulling together a lot of people and telling them to get on with it.

Johnson Controls are a 'just-in-time' company in the automotive industry, next door to Ford at Halewood. When they moved to Merseyside in '94, they devised their own job application form that looked for team players. People who played for a local football team. People who organised outings for the disabled.

From 600 interviews, 104 were chosen. Only 3 dropped out.

And after special training by one of Merseyside's three Training & Enterprise Councils, the 104 graduates went to work.

**"Forget Liverpool or Everton. This is the best team on Merseyside."**

When the production line started rolling, Johnson saw one or two things you rarely see coming off a conveyor belt.

Team spirit. Initiative. People who cared about their company.

Their working methods have proved so successful that Johnsons have used some of their Merseyside workforce as consultants in developing their production line in Dagenham.

**"I would like to take my workforce with me - wherever I go."**

But the enthusiasm, teamwork and 'can-do' attitude you find on Merseyside aren't restricted to Johnson Controls.

Ask the management teams at other car component companies, like Delco Electronics, Champion Spark Plugs and Macle Automotive.

Outside the car business, ask oil and gas exploration company BHP, Glaxo, BICC or Kodak. (You really can ask them. As a new investor on Merseyside, you're invited to join a regular forum who pool their knowledge of the region and share those experiences with you).

And ask them about Merseyside's financial incentives, training assistance and site availability. Or the R&D opportunities with the two world class Universities.

But what about the team at Johnson?

They met their first production target way ahead of schedule. No surprises there. After all, Merseysiders have always been focused on getting their goals.



ROGER CLIFFORD  
PLANT MANAGER, JOHNSON CONTROLS AUTOMOTIVE (UK) LIMITED

TO DISCOVER MORE  
ABOUT THE INVESTMENT  
POTENTIAL ON  
MERSEYSIDE  
TELEPHONE

0800 22 0151

Email: merseyp@mail.cybase.co.uk

**MERSEYSIDE**  
A pool  
of talent



## market report / shares

## DATA BANK

FTSE 100  
4028.1+33.4

FTSE 250  
4443.8+11.0

FTSE 350  
2004.0+14.2

SEAQ VOLUME  
644.5m shares,  
38,886 bargains

Glits Index  
n/a

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



## BSkyB reaches new heights after American buying

## MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER



Blue chips closed at their high for the day after Wall Street surged 50 points on the back of positive sentiment about the US interest rate outlook after benign retail sales data. The FTSE 100 index ended the week at 4028.1, up 33.4 and just seven points shy of another all-time closing high.

Further US buying pushed satellite broadcaster BSkyB 26p higher at 650p, a new record. Technical analysts also noted that the shares had recently broken through chart resistance at 600p.

BSkyB is also a very tightly-held stock. Just four shareholders speak for 72 per cent of the shares, so it does not take many traders to be caught short to squeeze the price higher.

Rolls-Royce roared ahead 7p to 254.5p on hefty volumes of 11.4 million after US plane maker Boeing said the Federal Aviation Administration had granted initial approval to its

777 airliners powered by Rolls-Royce's Trent 800 engines. A buy note from SBC Warburg also helped.

The retail sector was generally buoyant after a survey from the CBI showing a rise in September retail sales, albeit at a slower pace than in August. However, J Sainsbury remained shunned ahead of interim results at the end of the month. BZW added to the recent clutch of negative broker comments by issuing a sell note, while switching into Tesco 4p up at 317p, was also noted.

With only 73 shopping days left to Christmas, brokers' thoughts are turning to the general retail sector, which has underperformed the stock market by 4 per cent since July.

NatWest thinks this has been overdone and highlighted several shares, notably Dims, which rose 23p to 567p, making it the best FTSE 100 performer of the day.

Enterprise Oil firmed 18.5p to 587.5p as analysts returned from a trip to see its Italian operations and investment bank Robert Fleming upgraded its net asset value from 600p to 800p.

Manchester United, preparing for this morning's top-of-the-table clash at Old Trafford with arch-rivals Liverpool, proved the old adage that football is a funny old game. Chief executive Martin Edwards was quoted as saying that the club was a likely bid target and that any proposals would be given serious consideration if it came in at over £400m. The reports drove United's shares to a record high of

513.5p, up £13.5m valuing the club at over £318.

Media and leisure group Granada, brewer Whitbread and Lord Hollick's United News & Media were mentioned as having expressed an interest in buying United, but all three companies denied the story.

Then, in a highly unusual move, United issued a stock exchange statement saying the board was not aware of any bid approaches - this from the company that conspicuously failed to inform the market when it received a £300m bid from video group VCI in May, which coincided with a sharp rise in United's share price.

Out-of-the-money Matthew Clark's investment session. Shares in the cider group, which recently issued a profits warning during the adverse impact of "alcohol" on its Baby-drum, K and Diamond brands, hit a six-year low of 267.5p in early trade. Overnight activity in the options market was blamed. But nerves were soothed after the Stock Exchange published a block order of 1.95 million shares at 340p transacted on 3 October should not have been delayed until two days ago. The shares ended 4.5p down at 309.5p.

Shares in Alvis rose 11.5p to 131p. Traders noted a number of large buy orders from Europe on hopes that Alvis is close to securing a significant contract with the Ministry of Defence in the near future. Alvis, member three behind GKN and Vauxhall at the UK automotive market, has

been starved of defence orders in recent months but investors clearly think its turn for a lucrative contract may be just around the corner.

Speculation continued to swirl around exhibitions group Blenheim, 1.5p higher at 484p. One story suggested that Anglo-Dutch publisher Reed-Elsevier was getting cold feet about making a full bid. Another suggested rival Dutch publisher VNU, which picked up a near-15 per cent stake at 500p in a recent "down raid" would re-enter the market next week and buy more shares.

Airtours rose 13p to 606.5p after setting up a new tour operating unit in California. And shares in USM-listed recruitment consultant Select. Appointments rose 32p to 370p after unveiling plans to list on the junior Nasdaq stock market. It also posted a doubling of interim pre-tax profits to £28m.

## TAKING STOCK

Shares in loudspeaker maker Verity struck another high note, rising 0.75p to 30.5p. Private investors are piling into the stock on hopes that Verity's new, water-thin NXT loudspeakers will be licensed to the likes of Nokia or Panasonic. Verity is exhibiting its wares at the Birmingham motor show on Tuesday.

Campbell & Armstrong, returned from a two-month suspension, fell 3.75p to 6.75p as the shopfitting unvetted plans to place 65 million shares at 5p each to raise £2.77m. A debt-for-equity swap and a reorganisation of the group's borrowings are also planned. In the 13 months to January pre-tax losses rose to £7.98m. Irwin, the contracting division put into administration in January was responsible for £5.2m of the shortfall.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: x Ex rights; x Ex dividend; x Ex all UK Unlisted Securities Market (x Supended pp Parity Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. \$ All Stocks. Source: FT Information

## The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 0901 223 235, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0901 223 235 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time	UK Stock Market Report	UK Company News	Foreign Exchange	Share Price Data	Financial Issues	Water Shares	Electricity Shares	High Street Banks
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87
88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85
86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94
95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74
75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53



STERLING		DOLLAR		D-MARK	
Country	Spot	1 month %	3 months %	Country	Spot
US	15683	8-8	6-9	1000	—
Canada	2225	8-8	6-9	1354	80-58
Germany	7200	56-82	72-83	1328	90-85
France	80899	57-87	59-76	50-76	275-353
Italy	22682	43-58	52-76	5245	320-1000
Japan	2787	87-88	98-93	51-55	50-145
ECU	1258	2-7	5-9	4292	13-14
Belgium	1000	1-0	3-31	7074	75-55
Thailand	9376	135-61	157-44	58933	238-247
Denmark	1000	74-80	76-80	175	19-23
Ireland	1039	1-3	4-6	15039	3-2
Norway	1099	130-73	270-150	50055	50-25
Spain	20619	25-27	42-57	7375	40-48
Sweden	13330	1-3	4-6	6595	42-47
Switzerland	1860	7-9	7-11	12830	30-25
Australia	1952	0-20	4-10	1378	34-35
Hong Kong	1777	0-10	0-10	25055	70-80
India	35240	0-10	0-10	25055	70-80
New Zealand	2256	0-82	30-23	14439	54-56
South Africa	1900	0-10	0-10	8795	1-4
Brazil	2337	0-10	0-10	1000	20-25

Austria	18,655	10,716	Oman	10,021	3,035
Brazil	18,056	12,819	Pakistan	57,852	27,500
China	13,005	8,259	Philippines	42,272	35,700
Egypt	5,530	3,401	Portugal	24,503	16,400
France	7,103	4,570	Qatar	5,681	3,630
Greece	26,719	17,000	Russia	89,447	58,500
Guinea	76,282	34,050	South Africa	7,382	4,556
India	56,159	35,700	Taiwan	43,052	27,500
Japan	64,700	33,000	UAE	5,754	3,670
Nigeria	22,547	8,040			

Notes: Figures are in millions of U.S. dollars. Figures are based on the most recent data available. Figures are based on the most recent data available. Figures are based on the most recent data available.

c Buys		d Buys		e Buys	
Australia(Dollars)	13652	France(Francs)	76300	New Zealand(Dollars)	21250
Austria(Dollars)	18300	Germany(Mark)	78000	Norway(Krone)	94925
Belgium(Francs)	47600	Greece(Drachme)	38000	Portugal(Escudo)	236400
Canada(Dollars)	20660	Hong Kong(Dollars)	18400	Spain(Pesetas)	165500
Cyprus(Pounds)	7085	India(Rupee)	19050	Sweden(Krona)	52050
Denmark(Krone)	10500	Italy(Lira)	204000	Switzerland(Franc)	40000
Finland(Markka)	56005	Japan(Yen)	172400	Turkey(Lira)	3395300
Finland(Markka)	72800	Malaysia	55400	United States(Dollars)	16290

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Banc	575%	Discount	250%	Prime	875%	Discount	650%
France		Lombard	450%	Discount	500%	Belgian	
Investment	350%	Cash		Govt Funds	575%	Discount	250%
Italy		Prime	550%	Spain		Central	300%
Discount	825%	Discount	500%	10-Day Reps	675%	Swiss	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	100%
Advances	250%	Discount	325%	Rep (Adv)	450%	Lombard	425%

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	7.7%	691	7.7%	745	Netherlands	8.1%	452	6%	591
US	6.7%	630	6.7%	688	Spain	9.0%	586	6.5%	774
Japan	5.8%	624	5.8%	671	Italy	9.1%	577	7%	678
Australia	6.7%	726	6.7%	755	Belgium	5.1%	477	7%	618
Germany	5.38%	493	6.25%	612	Sweden	1%	626	6%	711
France	5.5%	457	7.25%	595	ECU DM	6%	505	7%	631

Source: HSBC Markets Research

Yield calculated on total basis. \* Denotes low benchmark

	O'night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Starting Cds	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Local Authority Deos	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2
Discount Market Deos	5	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-	-	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2
Offer Cds	-	-	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	Bid/Ask traded	Open interest
Long G3 (Dec '96)	101.11	101.02	101.03	166687
Gamma G3 Bd (Dec '96)	98.31	98.25	98.26	208686
Long G3 (Mar '97)	92.91	92.78	92.80	156343
Japan Gov Bd (Dec '96)	123.43	123.45	123.37	7072
Long G3 Euro (Mar '97)	92.80	92.70	92.71	107233
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	93.80	93.81	93.75	67562
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	93.80	93.82	93.86	12723
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	93.84	93.87	93.82	202951
3 Mth Euro (Dec '96)	92.37	92.39	92.31	34899
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	92.37	92.38	92.40	65952
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	92.32	92.34	92.33	395
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	92.32	92.34	92.33	29893
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	92.31	92.36	92.39	3957
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	92.31	92.34	92.33	1659
3 Mth Euro (Mar '97)	92.30	92.32	92.35	6680
FTSE 100 (Mar '97)	4028.0	4040.0	4002.0	371
FTSE 100 (Mar '97)	4028.0	4040.0	4002.0	6920

Settlement price: 3993.00	closing offer price				Call/Put Total/rolls
Series	3900	3950	4000	4050	
Oct	108/4	84/10	28/27	7/1	--
Nov	134/22	98/34	84/53	39/78	--
Dec	188/40	130/54	87/73	68/96	--
Jan	180/55	142/71	115/90	89/114	--

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange cash 3 rate as 1995					
Symbol	Cash	3 mths	Volume	LME Stocks	chg
Aluminium HG	1000-1	937-50	5703	39450	- 62 1/2
Aluminium Alloy	105-05	930-50	303	80300	- 75 1/2
Copper A	105-05	930-50	6235	26500	- 10 1/2
Lead	705-00	707-00	5590	10500	- 25
Nickel	7055-00	7055-00	7120	2400	- 10
Tin	6020-30	6025-00	3033	5550	- 5 1/2
Zinc	10075-85	10032-32	5680	54830	- 7 1/2
Settlement Conversion	£/\$	\$/£	\$/£	Stock volumes & change in price at 10.00 AM	
	1.6783	0.5964	0.54		

pen for box	\$	Coins	\$	Coins	pen for box	\$	Coins	
Platinum	398.50	245.40	Britannia	299	253	Kruggerko	352.364	237.244
Palladium	127.75	74.75	Britannia 5 oz.	202	128	Sore	88.86	56.61
Silver spot	502.00	393.50	Britannia 25 oz	102	65	Nobles	381.287	243.253
Gold Bull	388.75	241.72	Britannia 10 oz	52	33	Maple Leaf	362.897	242.252

Source: South & Co.

LCE	Chlorine	LCE	Sulfonate	LCE	D/amine	LCE	Chlorine	ADA	Chlorine
Nov	963	Nov	523	Nov	10125	Nov	3500		
Mar	874	Mar	471	Mar	8250	Mar	7340	Feb	73
May	1033	May	142	May	19375	Apr	2100	Apr	10
Vol	12,875	Vol	4,443	Vol	88	Vol	36	Vol	192
White Sugar		Freight		Wheat		Corn			Local prices
LCE	Sulfonate	LCE	\$/Dindis pt	LCE	Chlorine	CBOT #		Cents bushels	
Dec	32500	Oct	145	Nov	8180	Dec	7540	Nov	57
Nov	32000	Nov	145	Nov	8180	Dec	7540	Nov	57
May	32000	Vol	35	Nov	10525	Nov	20900	Dec	57
Vol	4190	Import	1,053	Vol	489	May	30600-30150		396.70

Nov	Meats (Rice <sup>TM</sup> )	\$/tonne	128.50	Nov-Jan	Soya Oils	FL 100kg	92.50
Dec/Nov	Copra (I)	\$/tonne	140.00	Dec/Nov	Coconut Oil (I)	\$/tonne	72.50
Dec	Cotton (NY)	UScents	75.30	Oct	Sunflower Oil	\$/tonne	560.00
Oct	Wool	Acent/kg	76.00	Nov-Jan	Rapeseed Oil	FL 100kg	96.50
Oct	Rubber <sup>TM</sup>	cent/kg	316.50	Oct-Nov	Groundnut Oil	\$/tonne	875.00

Origins: S=South East; n=any origin; P=Pakistan; Ind=Indonesia; M=Malaysia; E=Europe; Russia; F1=International Futures

IPE	5.50pm	%chg	Yr ago	IPE	close	%chg	8pm	Spot CIF North West Europe
Nov	24.5	+0.29	16.58	Dec	24.600	-1.00	Nov	24.45 Unleaded Gasoline 127.423
Dec	24.04	+0.28	16.55	Nov	23.825	-1.75	Dec	24.05 Heavy Fuel Oil 123.174
Jan	23.34	+0.30	16.53	Dec	22.975	-0.75	Jan	23.80 Naphtha 126.779
Vol	28881			Index:	24.93		Feb	24.05 EIC Gasoil 127.226

COMMODITY INDICES								
"GSCI" Indices	Base date	+Spot	%Day Chg	Dec 31st	%Yr to chg	Year ago	% Yr chg	
Index	1970=100	20228	-2.82	202550	+1.91	18040	+14.92	
Agricultural	1970=100	36740	-0.88	388725	+2.19	26577	+47.70	
Energy	1970=100	71833	-3.20	7131	+11.24	58229	+36.69	
Industrial Metals	1970=100	155138	-0.32	158132	+1.92	14970	+5.99	
Livestock	1970=100	19189	-0.44	18271	+5.08	18123	+5.50	
Precious Metals	1970=100	483150	+0.28	488265	+1.25	48571	+0.26	

Source: Goldman Sachs & Co. "GSCI" as a benchmark and composition of Goldman Sachs & Co. Index as of 10:00 a.m.

[illegible]

**LWORTHS**



# Terrifying destiny of Tiger Woods

And quite apart from his face, there is his name. Tiger was so christened in honour of Vietnamese colleague of his

But last weekend Woods secured the sweetest of vindication, defeating Love in the sudden death play-off in Las Vegas. "He played a heck of a round when he had to," said Love of his opponent's final 8-over-par 64 that lifted him into a tie for the lead. "And you can't postpone the inevitable. I'm happy for him." Translated, those words amount to a rush of common sense: "Tiger is going to clean up." Love might have added on behalf of his rival: "Tiger is going to clean up. And he's fantastic for good." Woods is not going to collect a winner's cheque every Sunday. But his presence means greater public interest, bigger audiences, more TV money, richer sponsorship, more lucrative franchising deals — in short more money for everyone in the sport. Unless, of course, he implodes. More probably, however, last Sunday was only the start. Just ask Jack Nicklaus.



**Photograph: David Ashdown**

# Indians send Scotland packing

Montgomery blamed a rake outside a bunker at the sixth, which deflected his ball under the lip of a bunker from where he took a triple bogey, and the weather. "I wouldn't like to say the wind was a leveller, but it gives everyone a more equal opportunity," Montgomery said. "It was unfortunate the wind got up. It was difficult to two-putt from 70 feet." Don't mention The Oxfordshire or Carmause.

Usually at this competition the Saturday drawsheet has an addendum running into several pages of ifs, buts and maybes concerning the possible outcomes of the four groups. This year at least Group Three is

In Group One, the United States are in the strongest position, but if they lose to Spain, England could still qualify with a win over Italy. Despite Mark O'Meara's defeat to Barry Lane's 18 straight pars, Steve Stricker beat Jonathan Lomas after the Englishman went out of bounds twice at the 14th, and Phil Mickelson birdied two of the last three to beat Lee Westwood.

[illegible]

## Sciandri on a mission

Today Britain's women race over 100km of the same circuit where Olympic road race champion Jeannie Longo, of France, is pursuing her 12th world title.

## Spanish fleet threaten to withdraw

As the chairman of the five-man jury, Manel Pedreira, is Spanish, he was even less amused to read further on that "this event is not being held fairly and we do not feel ready to carry on playing this game". Another letter, from the chairman of the race committee to the jury, was hastily withdrawn.

After a little delay, all the Spanish boats went out in the first race. The winner was Ken Thelen of Norway, who opened a big lead on Giorgio Zucconi of Italy. Keeping the British flag flying were John Merricks and Ian Walker, who recovered from being 14th to finish fourth and keep the overall lead.

## Tibbs takes lead

Tibbo was to the east and nearer Africa than Mike Golding who, in Group 4, has led most of the time. Between them, and just one mile behind, was Simon Walker, the youngest skipper in the race but, this time on Toshiba, doing his second "wrong-way" circumnavigation. Tibbo has been coping with watermaker problems, while urging his crew to squeeze every knot of speed out of the 67-footer in the north-easterly breeching conditions which are giving the amateur, fare-paying crews tropical temperatures and a T-shirt and shorts life aboard. There is now a 300-mile gap.

Adrian Donovan, skipper of Heath Insured, said: "The weather is getting hot and sleeping down below difficult. Today is tuck-box day. We each have our own jar of biscuits and choc bars. These are refilled every six days and a lot of bargaining and swapping takes place. It's the highlight of the week."

## Mongia's 137 not out

(Second day: Australia won toss)

**AUSTRALIA** - First innings 182 (A Runble 4-63).

**INDIA** - First innings

Udhan Singh 7 for 41	
Shankar Das Pounding B Rattiel	5
N R Mongia not out	137
S Ganguly c M E Waugh b Hogg	66
S R Tendulkar c M E Waugh b Modyesee	10
M Azharuddin c McGinnis	17
R S Dorey c Healy b S R Waugh	40
S R Tendulkar c Posing b Rattiel	23
A R Kapoor not out	28
Extras (b5 lb1 nb7)	13
Total (for 6, 143 overs)	219
Full points: 2-144 3-169 4-199 5-200	

To bat: A R Runble, V B K Prasad, D Johnson.

Bowling: McGrath 23-9-43-1 (nb5); Rattiel 14-5-34-1; S R Waugh 13-5-25-1 (nb1); Modyesee 34-6-100-2; Hogg 17-3-69-1 (nb1); M Waugh 32-0-42-0.

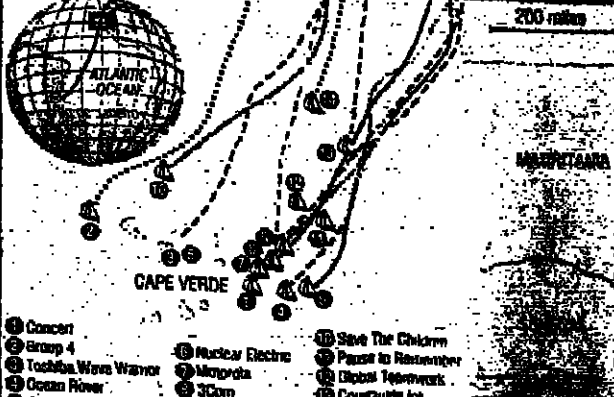
Umpires: S Venkatarangnan (In) and P Wily (Eng).

crews... makes the reliability of the jury very doubtful".

As the chairman of the five-man jury, Manel Pedreira, is Spanish, he was even less amused to read further on that "this event is not being held fairly and we do not feel ready to carry on playing this game". Another letter, from the chairman of the race committee to the jury, was hastily withdrawn.

After a little delay, all the Spanish boats went out in the first race. The winner was Ken Thelen of Norway, who opened a big lead on Giorgio Zucconi of Italy. Keeping the British flag flying were John Merricks and Ian Walker, who recovered from being 14th to finish fourth and keep the overall lead.

## BT CHALLENGE: LATEST POSITIONS



**OR** spread your insurance

payments over a year.

It's free.

Call 0800 333 800

for a motor or

home quote.

**EAGLE STAR**

Phone for a free quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. A written credit quotation is available on request. Motor insurance not available in Northern Ireland.

We regret that we cannot quote for rented unfurnished accommodation.



















# The earth definitely didn't move for Ipswich last season, so much so that they changed their shirt sponsors from Fisons to Greene King

There must be something about Portakabin which works for York City but not for me. I once took an exam in a Portakabin masquerading as a classroom; its only redeeming feature was a huge metal clock on the wall which I spent an inordinate amount of time staring at. The exam was chemistry, and I failed.

York, on the other hand, who have Portakabin as their sponsors and so have to suffer the dubious distinction of having the name emblazoned across their shirts, dumped mighty Manchester United out of last season's Coca-Cola Cup (winning 3-0 at Old Trafford, for heaven's sake - they were the only team to win there in 1995/96), and then dispatched Everton in this season's competition to earn themselves a lucrative home tie against Leicester.

I'm being rather glib here; Portakabin is a very successful company. But I've always thought shirt sponsorship was a bit of a lottery. It's all right if you're Leeds (who used to be Top Man); Walsall (Choice Personnel); or Manchester United (Sharp). It's not so amusing if you happen to be Luton Town (Universal Salvage Auctions), Meadowbank Thistle (The Rader), an Indian establishment that was obviously too hot for Meadowbank to handle as they've since metamorphosed into Livingston), Bristol Rovers (Bradshaw's Snack Box) or especially Hereford United. The Bulls' shirt has been a laughing stock in recent years. Its logo of club sponsors Sun Valley - which looks fine on a packet of frozen chickens but does nothing to enhance a football strip - has given new mean-

ing to the phrase "running around like headless chickens".

Last season Ayr United were What Everyone Wants, one of Scotland's most tacky clothes shops. Grimsby are Europe's Food Town which, with the greatest respect to Grimsby, is mostly certainly not; while Clydebank are undoubtedly Wet Wet Wet (at least the Bankies can claim to be the only club backed by a pop group). The earth definitely didn't move for Ipswich last season, so much so that they changed their sponsors from Fisons to Greene King. And I'm absolutely certain Blackpool players must have suffered a few faints of "You're a big girl's blouse" from opposing players; they are sponsored by Rebecca's.

Huge sighs of relief all round at Hibs, meanwhile. The Edinburgh

## Olivia Blair



### ON SATURDAY

club have just replaced Calor Gas with Carlsberg on the club's shirts. It was a sponsorship I found faintly ironic since Easter Road is always freezing cold.

Hibs, in fact, were the first Scot-

tish club to carry a shirt sponsor, that of Buxton in 1977 (Kettering Town were the first south of the border, in 1976). Since then they've been sponsored by such highfalutin' organisations as P&J Windows, Frank Graham Builders and a company called Macbean, which makes protective clothing. That, as you can imagine, gave the headline writers a field day (Has-beens, Might-have-beens, etc.).

Joking aside, shirt sponsorship gives the company concerned greater prominence, particularly if its club is doing well and receiving extensive media coverage.

Of course, while a sponsor may endow itself to a certain market by being associated with a particular club, the link can have the opposite effect. I happily admit that I will nev-

er buy anything manufactured by JVC, and know Arsenal fans who would not dream of letting a drop of Holsten pass their lips, or a Hewlett Packard product dent their bank balance. I bet Blackburn Rovers fans aren't insured by Endsleigh, and that even the most parched Burnley fan would turn down a pint of McEwans. And I'd like to know the breakdown of Brother and Sharp sales in Manchester. In fact, the only time sponsorship has bridged the gap was in the 1980s when canny Scottish double glazing firm, CR Smith, bridged the biggest gap of all by sponsoring both Rangers and Celtic.

I'm sure I wasn't alone in thinking it slightly strange when England announced they were being sponsored by a breakdown firm, Green

Flag. Thankfully, it hasn't proved to be a bad omen, although it was ironic that the first match of the association - at Lansdowne Road in February 1995 - was against a country whose fans waved green flags and which was abandoned after 20 minutes. Admiral were actually the first sponsors of England, in the 1970s; in 1990 it was, er, Trebor Mints. We must be thankful it wasn't Polo, the mint with a hole in the middle. That could have given the defence all sorts of problems.

Mind you, sponsors aren't necessarily visible in the naked eye. In 1991, Aldershot struck a deal with a computer company which meant the players had to wear the company's name - on their jock straps. Now that sounds like a load of old bollocks to me.

## Solskjaer swiftly gunning for glory



It is a moot point whether Alex Ferguson knows the Norwegian word for robber but you suspect it is merely a matter of time. The chances are there will be a Scandinavian Joe Royle somewhere, ready to remind the Manchester United manager of his good judgement and fortune.

For years "robber" was the first word Royle would shout down a telephone line at Ferguson, the legacy of the dependable Denis Irwin's £625,000 fee when he moved from Oldham Athletic to Old Trafford. That was for a full-back. How much more angst will be incurred by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who seems to possess the knack which is beyond price: scoring goals?

Five so far in four starts from a 23-year-old son of a Norwegian wrestling champion who United expected to be blooming six months after his £1.5m move from Molde, and whose arrival has taken on an extra significance with Andy Cole's broken legs. If Ferguson looks like Christmas has arrived early, in a sense it has.

"He's one for the future," Ferguson growled as the raw Norwegian arrived, his protective arm already round a player whose inexperience - two years ago he was playing in the Norwegian Third Division - makes him less football wise than many of the younger players around him. The future would not wait, however.

Indeed Solskjaer was hammering on the door as soon as he put on the United shirt. In his first reserve game he scored twice and hit the bar on his first-team debut as a substitute he

### Guy Hodgson on Old Trafford's swaggering young Norwegian striker

claimed an equaliser against Blackburn Rovers; he has scored every time he has played at Old Trafford. As Ferguson puts it: "You just can't ignore him. He surprised us all."

Perhaps not everyone. The Norwegians had a sneaking suspicion that Ferguson, who picked up Peter Schmeichel for £550,000 and Andre Kanchelskis for £650,000, had secured another bargain from mainland Europe. The new Alan Shearer they call Solskjaer in Oslo, the result of 26 goals for Molde last season as well as four in his first six appearances for his country.

"He is a huge talent," Oyvind Leonhardsen, who comes from Solskjaer's home town of Kristiansund and who recommended him to his own club, Wimbledon, last season, said. "We used to train together at the same Norwegian club, Klaus Enengen, and although he was three years younger than me he stood out. He was small but had two very quick feet."

"Shearer is the only player I could compare him to. He might not be as strong yet, but Ole can score goals from any angle and distance with either foot. If he gets a chance then Ole will score."

Solskjaer's glaring misses against Rapid Vienna in the Champions' League exposed the exaggeration in Leonhardsen's words but you know what he means. As soon as he took the field in his first match he had

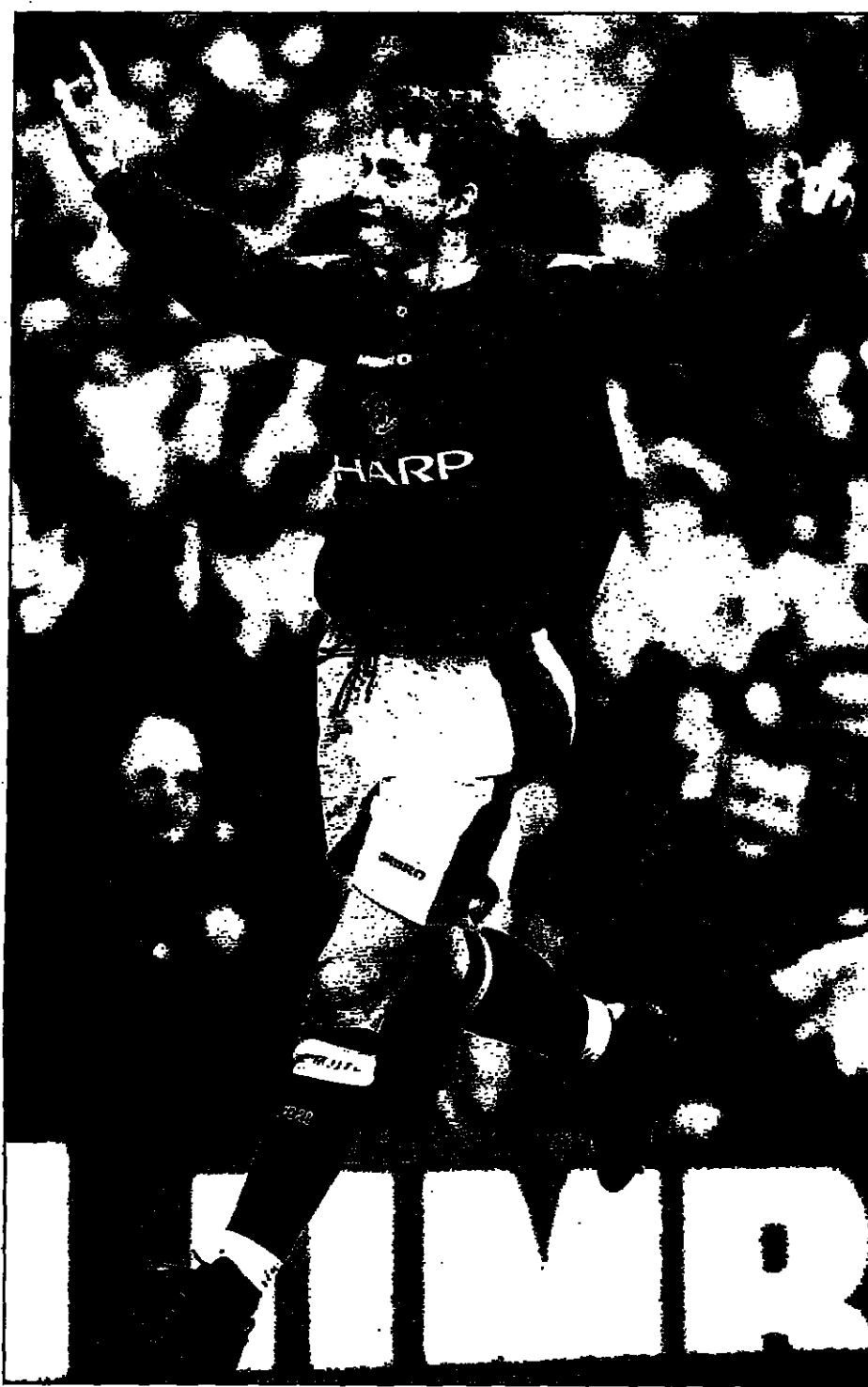
the swagger that Shearer possesses and Cole does not. His goal was taken with a fierce volley, his desire to score unabated by an initial save by Tim Flowers, but he also had three other shots in a 22-minute cameo that had the sharpness of a February wind.

His attitude, too, seems exemplary for a striker. If Cole had missed the two chances that Solskjaer blew against Rapid he would almost certainly have brooded. The Norwegian with a child's face seemed to discard them from his memory as soon as his expression of embarrassment disappeared. Instead he stressed the positive: "My first half was one of my best ever in football."

"I'm not really strong enough to keep away defenders with my back to goal so I have to move quickly. When I do, I don't think people can catch me. I think I've improved enormously since arriving in the summer. My confidence is much better."

In the context of Old Trafford, scoring sensations can come and go quickly, as Andy Ritchie and Mark Robins could testify, but Solskjaer looks an authentic article as his goals against Tottenham Hotspur in United's last game had natural running through them. His feet are quick but his mind seems to work in the calculating way that makes Eric Cantona the outstanding creative force in the Premiership.

As Age Hareide, Solskjaer's erstwhile coach at Molde, said last week: "If I'd known he was going to keep on scoring like this I'd have sold him for £50m." The word robber seemed to be on the tip of his tongue.



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer: Cause for celebration

Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Empics

## Euro 96 books reveal record profit of £69m

England's hopes of staging the World Cup in 2006 were given a boost yesterday when it was revealed that Euro 96 had made a record profit of £69m.

The virtually trouble-free month was proof that hooliganism can be conquered and now the announcement of a multi-million pound profit for the championships puts the icing on the Football Association's cake.

While all that money will be going to Uefa, the governing body of European football, rather than Lancaster Gate, the FA will receive £4m as reward for England's run to the last four. Winners Germany will get £6m after lifting the trophy courtesy of their golden-goal win over the Czech Republic. Scotland receive £2.5m for coming third behind England in their group.

The FA also revealed an extra surplus of £500,000 and it is expected that further money will come in the next few months as Uefa make a contribution towards the operating costs of the event.

While the FA were the organisers, the tournament was held under Uefa's auspices, with the fees for television and radio broadcasts and gate receipts going to European football's governing body.

Of the total profit, £47m will be split between the 16 competing nations. The other £22m will go into Uefa's Special Fund, dedicated to the development of the game in the emerging nations of eastern Europe.

"When it comes to bidding for the World Cup, there can be no better example to point to than that we have proved we can organise a tournament that was a

huge success, in terms of crowds, the atmosphere and the financial side as well," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said.

The FA's own profit, with the costs of organising the tournament over four years deducted from the income of £3.8m, was more than many had expected. Double added: "There were some doom and gloom merchants predicting that we would make a massive loss and, while we were never in this to make a profit for ourselves, we always said the tournament would make either a small loss or a small profit."

"Fortunately it was a profit, but more importantly the success in every aspect of Euro 96 has put the reputation and prestige of England and the English game at the highest level it's been at since 1966. That's not something you can buy."

"And there were other spin-offs as well, for the game in this country and the economy as a whole. We saw that at first hand at Wembley on Wednesday, with a capacity crowd for Glenn Hoddle's first game, proof that we've gained hugely from the summer. There was a Euro 96-related tourist boom in June, and as a direct result of the number of foreign visitors the trade balance was in surplus."

Euro 96 tournament director Glen Kirtton stressed that the good financial news had topped off what was in every other respect a terrific tournament.

"The money side is very nice but it was never the purpose of the exercise," Kirtton said. "That was always the prestige of English football and the hope that we could leave a legacy for the future."

### SPORTING DIGEST

#### Athletics

Merlene Ottey, the second fastest female sprinter in the world, has no plans to retire. On Thursday a minister for special projects in Jamaica announced Ottey was moving into a career in fashion design, leading to speculation she would retire. However, her agent Andrei Kulikowski said yesterday Ottey was about to sign a two-year deal with a sports company to design shoes and apparel, which probably led to the confusion.

#### Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: Baltimore 5, New York 3 (best of seven series tied at 3-2).

#### Boxing

Nigel Benn, the former world champion, is to be interviewed by the British Boxing Board of Control over an alleged incident in a London night-club. This will take place at the Board's next meeting days after his WBO super-middleweight title rematch with Steve Collins, of Ireland, on 9 November in Manchester.

#### Cycling

Dennis Roux, the Canada head coach, has accepted an offer to coach the professional French team GAN, replacing

Francis Van Lancker, who has assumed coaching duties with the new French team, Colfide.

#### Drugs in Sport

The International Olympic Committee have found a way of detecting a new type of doping, a drug suspected of having killed athletes in the past. Erythropoietin stimulates the production of red blood cells which transport oxygen around the body. It is used by athletes who want to cheat in endurance events like cycling and rowing. It is suspected that 18 riders in Europe have died taking the drug since it was first introduced to treat kidney disease in the mid-1980s.

#### Football

Peter Hoekstra, the Ajax and Dutch international winger, will have a knee operation next week that will keep him out of action for most of the rest of the season.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Eastern Conference

Philadelphia 66ers 2, New York Rangers 1-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Eastern Conference

Philadelphia 66ers 2, New York Rangers 1-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Eastern Conference

Philadelphia 66ers 2, New York Rangers 1-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Eastern Conference

Philadelphia 66ers 2, New York Rangers 1-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Eastern Conference

Philadelphia 66ers 2, New York Rangers 1-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Eastern Conference

Philadelphia 66ers 2, New York Rangers 1-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Eastern Conference

Philadelphia 66ers 2, New York Rangers 1-0.

#### MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER Western Conference

Los Angeles Galaxy 2, Kansas City 2-0.

#### Hockey

WORLD CUP PRELIMINARY (Cagayan): 20th place: USA 2, China 5; 21st place: USA 2, China 5; 22nd place: USA 2, China 5.

#### Joe Hockey

WHL: Dallas 2, NY Rangers 1; Philadelphia 5, Los Angeles 4 (OT); Colorado 6, Anaheim 6 (OT); Phoenix 4, San Jose 1.

#### Rugby League

Matt Murray, Oldham's Australian forward, has announced that he expects to be returned to the club next season.

#### Rugby Union

Murray Wallace, of Glasgow High Wynd, has been called into the Scotland squad for next month's Dubai Sevens tournament as a replacement for Hewitt's Brian Renwick, who has broken a bone in his foot.

#### Swedish

WOMEN'S WORLD OPEN (Malaysia) Quarter-final: 1. Living (AUS) 4-9; 2. 10-9; 3. 9-5; 4. 9-5; 5. 9-5; 6. 9-5; 7. 9-5; 8. 9-5; 9. 9-5; 10. 9-5; 11. 9-5; 12. 9-5; 13. 9-5; 14. 9-5; 15. 9-5; 16. 9-5; 17. 9-5; 18. 9-5; 19. 9-5; 20. 9-5; 21. 9-5; 22. 9-5; 23. 9-5; 24. 9-5; 25. 9-5; 26. 9-5; 27. 9-5; 28. 9-5; 29. 9-5; 30. 9-5; 31. 9-5; 32. 9-5; 33. 9-5; 34. 9-5; 35. 9-5; 36. 9-5; 37. 9-5; 38. 9-5; 39. 9-5; 40. 9-5; 41. 9-5; 42. 9-5; 43. 9-5; 44. 9-5; 45. 9-5; 46. 9-5; 47. 9-5; 48. 9-5; 49. 9-5; 50. 9-5; 51. 9-5; 52. 9-5; 53. 9-5; 54. 9-5; 55. 9-5; 56. 9-5; 57. 9-5; 58. 9-5; 59. 9-5; 60. 9-5; 61. 9-5; 62. 9-5; 63. 9-5; 64. 9-5; 65. 9-5; 66. 9-5; 67. 9-5; 68. 9-5; 69. 9-5; 70. 9-5; 71. 9-5; 72. 9-5; 73. 9-5; 74. 9-5; 75. 9-5; 76. 9-5; 77. 9-5; 78. 9-5; 79. 9-5; 80. 9-5; 81. 9-5; 82. 9-5; 83. 9-5; 84. 9-5; 85. 9-5; 86. 9-5; 87. 9-5; 88. 9-5; 89. 9-5; 90. 9-5; 91. 9-5; 92. 9-5; 93. 9-5; 94. 9-5; 95. 9-5; 96. 9-5; 97. 9-5; 98. 9-5; 99. 9-5; 100. 9-5; 101. 9-5; 102. 9-5; 103. 9-5; 104. 9-5; 105. 9-5; 106. 9-5; 107. 9-5; 108. 9-5; 109. 9-5; 110. 9-5; 111. 9-5; 112. 9-5; 113. 9-5; 114. 9-5; 115. 9-5; 116. 9-5; 117. 9-5; 118. 9-5; 119. 9-5; 120. 9-5; 121. 9-5; 122. 9-5; 123. 9-5; 124. 9-5; 125. 9-5; 126. 9-5; 127. 9-5; 128. 9-5; 129. 9-5; 130. 9-5; 131. 9-5; 132. 9-5; 133. 9-5; 134. 9-5; 135. 9-5; 136. 9-5; 137. 9-5; 138. 9-5; 139. 9-5; 140. 9-5; 141. 9-5; 142. 9-5; 143. 9-5; 144. 9-5; 145. 9-5; 146. 9-5; 147. 9-5; 148. 9-5; 149. 9-5; 150. 9-5; 151. 9-5; 152. 9-5; 153. 9-5; 154. 9-5; 155. 9-5; 156. 9-5; 157. 9-5; 158. 9-5; 159. 9-5; 160. 9-5; 161. 9-5; 162. 9-5; 163. 9-5; 164. 9-5; 165. 9-5; 166. 9-5; 167. 9-5; 168. 9-5; 169. 9-5; 170. 9-5; 171. 9-5; 172. 9-5; 173. 9-5; 174. 9-5; 175. 9-5; 176. 9-5; 177. 9-5; 178. 9-5; 179. 9-5; 180. 9-5; 181. 9-5; 182. 9-5; 183. 9-5; 184. 9-5; 185. 9-5; 186. 9-5; 187. 9-5; 188. 9-5; 189. 9-5; 190. 9-5; 191. 9-5; 192. 9-5; 193. 9-5; 194. 9-5; 195. 9-5; 196. 9-5; 197. 9-5; 198. 9-5; 199. 9-5; 200. 9-5; 201. 9-5; 202. 9-5; 203. 9-5; 204. 9-5; 205. 9-5; 206. 9-5; 207. 9-5; 208. 9-5; 209. 9-5; 210. 9-5; 211. 9-5; 212. 9-5; 213. 9-5; 214. 9-5; 215. 9-5; 216. 9-5; 217. 9-5; 218. 9-5; 219. 9-5; 220. 9-5; 221. 9-5; 222. 9-5; 223. 9-5; 224. 9-5; 225. 9-5; 226. 9-5; 227. 9-5; 228. 9-5; 229. 9-5; 230. 9-5; 231. 9-5; 232. 9-5; 233. 9-5; 234. 9-5; 235. 9-5; 236. 9-5; 237. 9-5; 238. 9-5; 239. 9-5; 240. 9-5; 241. 9-5; 242. 9-5; 243. 9-5; 244. 9-5; 245. 9-5; 246. 9-5; 247. 9-5; 248. 9-5; 249. 9-5; 250. 9-5; 251. 9-5; 252. 9-5; 253. 9-5; 254. 9-5; 255. 9-5; 256. 9-5; 257. 9-5; 258. 9-5; 259. 9-5; 260. 9-5; 261. 9-5; 262. 9-5; 263. 9-5; 264. 9-5; 265. 9-5; 266. 9-5; 267. 9-5; 268. 9-5; 269. 9-5; 270. 9-5; 271. 9-5; 272. 9-5; 273. 9-5; 274. 9-5; 275. 9-5; 276. 9-5; 277. 9-5; 278. 9-5; 279. 9-5; 280. 9-5; 281. 9-5; 282. 9-5; 283. 9-5; 284. 9-5; 285. 9-5; 286. 9-5; 287. 9-5; 288. 9-5; 289. 9-5; 290. 9-5; 291. 9-5; 292. 9-5; 293. 9-5; 294. 9-5; 295. 9-5; 296. 9-5; 297. 9-5; 298. 9-5; 299. 9-5; 300. 9-5; 301. 9-5; 302. 9-5; 303. 9-5; 304. 9-5; 305. 9-5; 306. 9-5; 307. 9-5; 308. 9-5; 309. 9-5; 310. 9-5; 311. 9-5; 312. 9-5; 313. 9-5; 314. 9-5; 315. 9-5; 316. 9-5; 317. 9-5; 318. 9-5; 319. 9-5; 320. 9-5; 321. 9-5; 322. 9-5; 323. 9-5; 324. 9-5; 325. 9-5; 326. 9-5; 327. 9-5; 328. 9-5; 329. 9-5; 330. 9-5; 331. 9-5; 332. 9-5; 333. 9-5; 334. 9-5; 335. 9-5; 336. 9-5; 337. 9-5; 338. 9-5; 339. 9-5; 340. 9-5; 341. 9-5; 342. 9-5; 343. 9-5; 344. 9-5; 345. 9-5; 346. 9-5; 347. 9-5; 348. 9-5; 349. 9-5; 350. 9-5; 351. 9-5; 352. 9-5; 353. 9-5; 354. 9-5; 355. 9-5; 356. 9-5; 357. 9-5; 358. 9-5; 359. 9-5; 360. 9-5; 361. 9-5; 362. 9-5; 363. 9-5; 364. 9-5; 365. 9-5; 366. 9-5; 367. 9-5; 368. 9-5; 369. 9-5; 370. 9-5; 371. 9-5; 372. 9-5; 373. 9-5; 374. 9-5; 375. 9-5; 376. 9-5; 377. 9-5; 378. 9-5; 379. 9-5; 380. 9-5; 381. 9-5; 382. 9-5; 383. 9-5; 384. 9-5; 385. 9-5; 386. 9-5; 387. 9-5; 388. 9-5; 389. 9-5; 390. 9-5; 391. 9-5; 392. 9-5; 393. 9-5; 394. 9-5; 395. 9-5; 396. 9-5; 397. 9-5; 398. 9-5; 399. 9-5; 400. 9-5; 401. 9-5; 402. 9-5; 403. 9-5; 404. 9-5; 405. 9-5; 406. 9-5; 407. 9-5; 408. 9-5; 409. 9-5; 410. 9-5; 411. 9-5; 412. 9-5; 413. 9-5; 414. 9-5; 415. 9-5; 416. 9-5; 417. 9-5; 418. 9-5; 419. 9-5; 420. 9-5; 421. 9-5; 422. 9-5; 423. 9-5; 424. 9-5; 425. 9-5; 426. 9-5; 427. 9-5; 428. 9-5; 429. 9-5; 430. 9-5; 431. 9-5; 432. 9-5; 433. 9-5; 434. 9-5; 435. 9-5; 436. 9-5; 437. 9-5; 438. 9-5; 439. 9-5; 440. 9-5; 441. 9-5; 442. 9-5; 443. 9-5; 444. 9-5; 445. 9-5; 446. 9-5; 447. 9-5; 448. 9-5; 449. 9-5; 450. 9-5; 451. 9-5; 452. 9-5; 453. 9-5; 454. 9-5; 455. 9-5; 456. 9-5; 457. 9-5; 458. 9-5; 459. 9-5; 460. 9-5; 461. 9-5; 462. 9-5; 463. 9-5; 464. 9-5; 465. 9-5; 466. 9-5; 467. 9-5; 468. 9-5; 469. 9-5; 470. 9-5; 471. 9-5; 472. 9-5; 473. 9-5; 474. 9-5; 475. 9-5; 476. 9-5; 477. 9-5; 478. 9-5; 479. 9-5; 480.



## SPORT

'Liverpool became the best because they never allowed sentiment to come into their decision-making. They always ousted you at the first sign of decline'

Graeme Souness talks to Ian Stafford in Monday's 24-page sports section

MOTOR RACING: Williams drivers happy with their cars but weather adds element of uncertainty to world championship decider

# Confident Hill ready to claim the crown

DAVID TREMAYNE  
reports from Suzuka

On the day Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve were upstaged in their fight for the world drivers' championship, the Williams-Renault owner, Frank Williams, had to be bullied into expressing any opinion as to which of them he wants to see crowned world champion on Sunday. With reluctance he said: "All I will say is that Damon has worked for Williams for four years in grand prix racing. And yes, it would be nice for him to win."

As Hill is banished to TWR Arrows, it was reported yesterday that his partner next season will be Pedro Diniz, the 26-year-old Brazilian currently driving for Ligier who is bringing a £5m budget to the Oxfordshire team. Villeneuve, who stays on at Williams for 1997, ended a damp day in fourth place with Hill right behind, but the only times that matter are those they set in qualifying in the afternoon, which will decide the starting grid for this crucial final encounter.

"I think it's a good start, and I'm quite happy with the car," Hill said, looking relaxed despite intermittent rain which left the track slippery throughout the day. "It was changing every lap, and there were certain parts of the track that were wetter than others. Although there was a dryish line the times were quite a long way from a full dry time. So it was half and half, really."

"At the end I elected to go out and do a longish run, so I've got a good feel what the car might be like if the race conditions are like this. I'm pleased with the way things went. It was a useful session from two points of view: we got some wet running and close to some dry running. We got a lot of information today."

Villeneuve, too, was buoyant, though less able than he had hoped to capitalise on his experience of the track from junior racing. "Portugal was better for me because we had done a lot of testing at Estoril," he said. "If it's going to rain here all weekend it's going to be very difficult to work on the car. I didn't do much to the set-up today be-

cause the track conditions were changing so much. This morning the track didn't feel quite the way I remembered it from the days it was wet when I used to race Formula Three here, but by the afternoon it was beginning to feel more familiar."

Gerhard Berger was the man in the strongest form, his good humour evident even at breakfast. "You know," he joked, "in my days in Formula Three all the sponsors wanted was television, so I had this guy follow

me with a camera and keep asking me for an interview. I always gave him one even though there wasn't any film in the camera. The sponsors wanted to see television interest, so I gave it to them. I got more money and nobody ever seemed to realise that the film never came!"

Yesterday there was no need for subterfuge as the 37-year-old Austrian finished practice more than half a second faster than Mika Hakkinen's McLaren-Mercedes and almost a second

ahead of Michael Schumacher's Ferrari. "We've solved a front suspension problem that hurt us in the last two races," Berger said, "and I hope that we can confirm this performance tomorrow."

"A couple of people are quick today but you can't tell on Friday exactly what the situation is," Hill said. "Quite often we find on Friday we are apparently not as competitive as others, but then on Saturday we put ourselves at the head of the field again, so I don't know quite what to say about today except that some of the people ahead of us may be there for other reasons."

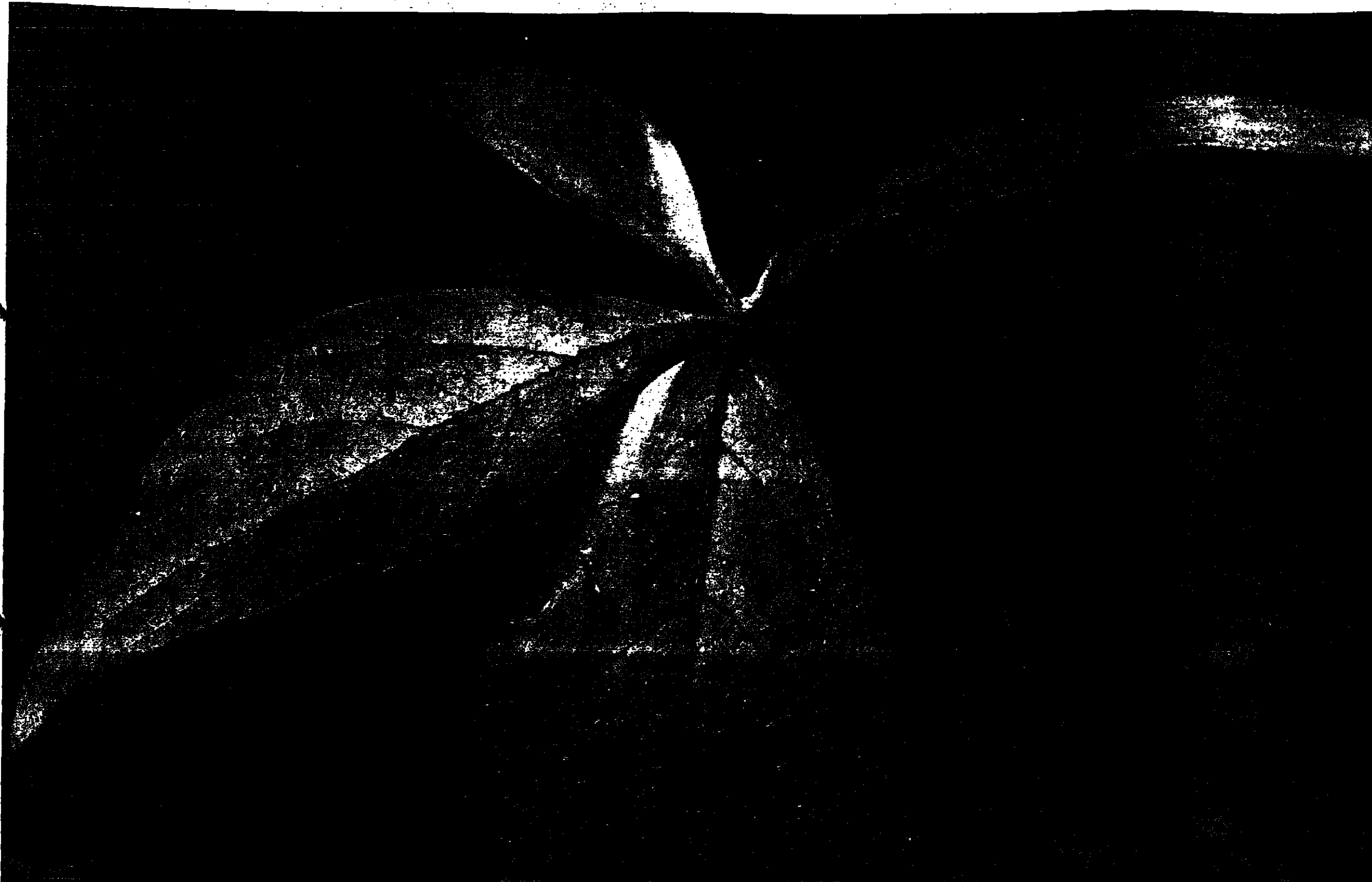
His Williams-Renault looked twelfth at times, but Hill was unconcerned about its behaviour as he was about the four drivers ahead of him. "I was pushing to find the limits and every now and then you'd hit a patch that would make the back end step out, but the car was very controllable so I'm quite encouraged by that."

The weather forecast is not good for the weekend, and Hill and Villeneuve would prefer a dry track. "Of course it's preferable to have a dry race," Hill said, "but I'm not too concerned either way. It's just a little more predictable when it's dry."

"I think we've got a better car in the dry," Villeneuve said, "and there is more chance of Damon or myself falling off if it's wet. And the wet will put the other teams closer to us as well. To win the championship I have to win, so I guess I'd rather have a dry track. The ball is in Damon's camp, so all I can do is my best and win the race and then hope that Damon doesn't finish. But if you hope for something you get the opposite, and you'll regret it anyway." Regret, for sure, will engulf one of them on Sunday.

JAPANESE GRAND PRIX (Suzuka) First practice times: 2 G. Berger (Audi) 1:40.0; 2 M. Schumacher (Ferrari) 1:40.5; 3 J. Villeneuve (Williams) 1:41.0; 4 D. Hill (Williams) 1:41.5; 5 A. Prost (Benson & Edmonds) 1:42.0; 6 M. Hakkinen (McLaren) 1:42.5; 7 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:43.0; 8 R. Barrichello (Jordan) 1:43.5; 9 R. Fittipaldi (Jordan) 1:44.0; 10 M. Salvo (Fittipaldi) 1:44.5; 11 J. Herbert (Benetton) 1:45.0; 12 J. Coulthard (McLaren) 1:45.5; 13 J. Montoya (Williams) 1:46.0; 14 J. Magnussen (Benetton) 1:46.5; 15 J. Trulli (Benetton) 1:47.0; 16 J. Sato (Fittipaldi) 1:47.5; 17 J. Ward (Benson & Edmonds) 1:48.0; 18 J. Kuznetsov (Ligier) 1:48.5; 19 J. P. Jary (Ligier) 1:49.0; 20 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:49.5; 21 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:50.0; 22 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:50.5; 23 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:51.0; 24 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:51.5; 25 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:52.0; 26 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:52.5; 27 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:53.0; 28 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:53.5; 29 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:54.0; 30 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:54.5; 31 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:55.0; 32 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:55.5; 33 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:56.0; 34 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:56.5; 35 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:57.0; 36 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:57.5; 37 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:58.0; 38 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:58.5; 39 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:59.0; 40 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 1:59.5; 41 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:00.0; 42 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:00.5; 43 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:01.0; 44 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:01.5; 45 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:02.0; 46 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:02.5; 47 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:03.0; 48 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:03.5; 49 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:04.0; 50 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:04.5; 51 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:05.0; 52 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:05.5; 53 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:06.0; 54 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:06.5; 55 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:07.0; 56 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:07.5; 57 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:08.0; 58 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:08.5; 59 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:09.0; 60 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:09.5; 61 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:10.0; 62 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:10.5; 63 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:11.0; 64 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:11.5; 65 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:12.0; 66 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:12.5; 67 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:13.0; 68 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:13.5; 69 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:14.0; 70 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:14.5; 71 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:15.0; 72 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:15.5; 73 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:16.0; 74 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:16.5; 75 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:17.0; 76 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:17.5; 77 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:18.0; 78 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:18.5; 79 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:19.0; 80 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:19.5; 81 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:20.0; 82 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:20.5; 83 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:21.0; 84 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:21.5; 85 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:22.0; 86 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:22.5; 87 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:23.0; 88 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:23.5; 89 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:24.0; 90 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:24.5; 91 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:25.0; 92 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:25.5; 93 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:26.0; 94 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:26.5; 95 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:27.0; 96 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:27.5; 97 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:28.0; 98 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:28.5; 99 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:29.0; 100 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:29.5; 101 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:30.0; 102 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:30.5; 103 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:31.0; 104 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:31.5; 105 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:32.0; 106 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:32.5; 107 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:33.0; 108 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:33.5; 109 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:34.0; 110 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:34.5; 111 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:35.0; 112 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:35.5; 113 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:36.0; 114 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:36.5; 115 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:37.0; 116 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:37.5; 117 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:38.0; 118 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:38.5; 119 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:39.0; 120 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:39.5; 121 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:40.0; 122 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:40.5; 123 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:41.0; 124 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:41.5; 125 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:42.0; 126 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:42.5; 127 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:43.0; 128 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:43.5; 129 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:44.0; 130 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:44.5; 131 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:45.0; 132 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:45.5; 133 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:46.0; 134 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:46.5; 135 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:47.0; 136 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:47.5; 137 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:48.0; 138 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:48.5; 139 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:49.0; 140 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:49.5; 141 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:50.0; 142 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:50.5; 143 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:51.0; 144 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:51.5; 145 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:52.0; 146 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:52.5; 147 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:53.0; 148 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:53.5; 149 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:54.0; 150 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:54.5; 151 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:55.0; 152 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:55.5; 153 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:56.0; 154 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:56.5; 155 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:57.0; 156 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:57.5; 157 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:58.0; 158 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:58.5; 159 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:59.0; 160 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 2:59.5; 161 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:00.0; 162 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:00.5; 163 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:01.0; 164 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:01.5; 165 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:02.0; 166 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:02.5; 167 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:03.0; 168 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:03.5; 169 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:04.0; 170 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:04.5; 171 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:05.0; 172 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:05.5; 173 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:06.0; 174 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:06.5; 175 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:07.0; 176 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:07.5; 177 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:08.0; 178 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:08.5; 179 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:09.0; 180 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:09.5; 181 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:10.0; 182 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:10.5; 183 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:11.0; 184 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:11.5; 185 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:12.0; 186 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:12.5; 187 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:13.0; 188 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:13.5; 189 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:14.0; 190 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:14.5; 191 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:15.0; 192 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:15.5; 193 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:16.0; 194 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:16.5; 195 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:17.0; 196 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:17.5; 197 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:18.0; 198 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:18.5; 199 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:19.0; 200 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:19.5; 201 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:20.0; 202 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:20.5; 203 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:21.0; 204 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:21.5; 205 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:22.0; 206 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:22.5; 207 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:23.0; 208 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:23.5; 209 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:24.0; 210 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:24.5; 211 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:25.0; 212 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:25.5; 213 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:26.0; 214 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:26.5; 215 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:27.0; 216 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:27.5; 217 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:28.0; 218 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:28.5; 219 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:29.0; 220 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:29.5; 221 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:30.0; 222 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:30.5; 223 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:31.0; 224 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:31.5; 225 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:32.0; 226 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:32.5; 227 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:33.0; 228 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:33.5; 229 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:34.0; 230 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:34.5; 231 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:35.0; 232 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:35.5; 233 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:36.0; 234 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:36.5; 235 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:37.0; 236 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:37.5; 237 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:38.0; 238 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:38.5; 239 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:39.0; 240 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:39.5; 241 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:40.0; 242 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:40.5; 243 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:41.0; 244 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:41.5; 245 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:42.0; 246 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:42.5; 247 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:43.0; 248 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:43.5; 249 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:44.0; 250 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:44.5; 251 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:45.0; 252 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:45.5; 253 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:46.0; 254 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:46.5; 255 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:47.0; 256 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:47.5; 257 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:48.0; 258 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:48.5; 259 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:49.0; 260 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:49.5; 261 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:50.0; 262 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:50.5; 263 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:51.0; 264 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:51.5; 265 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:52.0; 266 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:52.5; 267 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:53.0; 268 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:53.5; 269 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:54.0; 270 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:54.5; 271 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:55.0; 272 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:55.5; 273 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:56.0; 274 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:56.5; 275 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:57.0; 276 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:57.5; 277 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:58.0; 278 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:58.5; 279 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:59.0; 280 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 3:59.5; 281 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:00.0; 282 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:00.5; 283 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:01.0; 284 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:01.5; 285 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:02.0; 286 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:02.5; 287 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:03.0; 288 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:03.5; 289 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:04.0; 290 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:04.5; 291 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:05.0; 292 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:05.5; 293 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:06.0; 294 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:06.5; 295 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:07.0; 296 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:07.5; 297 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:08.0; 298 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:08.5; 299 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:09.0; 300 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:09.5; 301 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:10.0; 302 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:10.5; 303 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:11.0; 304 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:11.5; 305 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:12.0; 306 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:12.5; 307 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:13.0; 308 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:13.5; 309 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:14.0; 310 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:14.5; 311 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:15.0; 312 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:15.5; 313 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:16.0; 314 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:16.5; 315 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:17.0; 316 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:17.5; 317 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:18.0; 318 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:18.5; 319 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:19.0; 320 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:19.5; 321 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:20.0; 322 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:20.5; 323 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:21.0; 324 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:21.5; 325 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:22.0; 326 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:22.5; 327 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:23.0; 328 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:23.5; 329 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:24.0; 330 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:24.5; 331 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:25.0; 332 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:25.5; 333 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:26.0; 334 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:26.5; 335 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:27.0; 336 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:27.5; 337 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:28.0; 338 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:28.5; 339 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:29.0; 340 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:29.5; 341 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:30.0; 342 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:30.5; 343 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:31.0; 344 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:31.5; 345 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:32.0; 346 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:32.5; 347 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:33.0; 348 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:33.5; 349 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:34.0; 350 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:34.5; 351 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:35.0; 352 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:35.5; 353 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:36.0; 354 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:36.5; 355 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:37.0; 356 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:37.5; 357 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:38.0; 358 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:38.5; 359 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:39.0; 360 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:39.5; 361 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:40.0; 362 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:40.5; 363 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:41.0; 364 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:41.5; 365 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:42.0; 366 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:42.5; 367 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:43.0; 368 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:43.5; 369 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:44.0; 370 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:44.5; 371 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:45.0; 372 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:45.5; 373 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:46.0; 374 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:46.5; 375 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:47.0; 376 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:47.5; 377 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:48.0; 378 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:48.5; 379 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:49.0; 380 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:49.5; 381 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:50.0; 382 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:50.5; 383 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:51.0; 384 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:51.5; 385 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:52.0; 386 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:52.5; 387 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:53.0; 388 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:53.5; 389 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:54.0; 390 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:54.5; 391 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:55.0; 392 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:55.5; 393 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:56.0; 394 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:56.5; 395 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:57.0; 396 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:57.5; 397 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:58.0; 398 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:58.5; 399 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:59.0; 400 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 4:59.5; 401 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:00.0; 402 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:00.5; 403 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:01.0; 404 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:01.5; 405 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:02.0; 406 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:02.5; 407 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:03.0; 408 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:03.5; 409 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:04.0; 410 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:04.5; 411 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:05.0; 412 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:05.5; 413 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:06.0; 414 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:06.5; 415 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:07.0; 416 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:07.5; 417 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:08.0; 418 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:08.5; 419 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:09.0; 420 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:09.5; 421 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:10.0; 422 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:10.5; 423 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:11.0; 424 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:11.5; 425 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:12.0; 426 J. Agnew (Benson & Edmonds) 5:12.5





Autumn red: a Russian vine in photographer Brian Harris's garden, Saffron Walden, Essex. Taken on Kodak 160 ASA colour negative film, 1/60th of a second at f11 using a Nikon Macro lens



# the long weekend

THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 1996

Crisp, dry, bright mornings... autumn days give you a tingle. As you walk to work the fallen leaves scrunch underfoot. Everything smells fresh. The more romantic of us try to catch a falling leaf for good luck. The former US presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy wrote that the only colour which stands out in spring is black. In autumn the colour is red - brazen and heroic against the deciduous greens of summer. Bomb attacks, absurd royal hoaxes, volcanoes in Iceland... it was a week as good, bad and baffling as many other. Better than most for the true blues of the Tory party gathered under the bright skies of Bournemouth. For them the scent of victory. For the rest of us, the scent of wood smoke.

## interview



### John Walsh meets... John Fuller

The prize-winning poet who has influenced a Parnassian Cosa Nostra of writers and creative spirits **page 3**

## arts & books



### The Queen, democracy and society

Is the monarchy the glue that holds us together, or a hindrance? **page 5**

TV, radio review ..... 4  
Poetry ..... 7  
Shelf life ..... 6

## travel

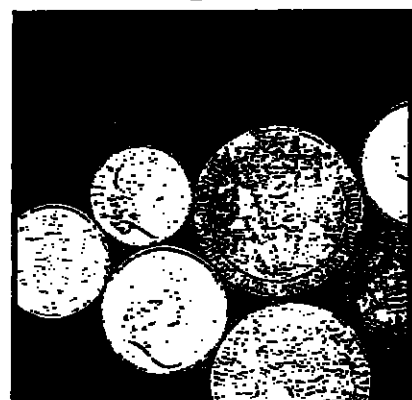


### Silent swim under a sea of storm

A sense of magic as you sink into a gloriously alien world **page 9**

Skiing ..... 14  
Gardens ..... 16  
Country walk ..... 17

## money



### The best for pensions and savings

Special report on how to make the right investment decisions. **page 22**

Property ..... 18  
Shopping ..... 26  
Crossword ..... 29

## Where the unexpected...

As readers have come to expect, the *London Review of Books* offers 'the most broadly based forum of intellectual opinion in the land' - often attracting as much critical attention as the books it covers. With our unrivalled combination of writers such as Alan Bennett, Edward Said, Linda Colley, Adam Phillips, Paul Foot, Frank Kermode, Marina Warner and David Sylvester we aim to meet your highest expectations. Yet our readers also enjoy being surprised. Recent articles feature Martha Gellhorn on Brazilian children, Michael Holroyd on his great aunt, Andrew O'Hagan on Jack Kerouac, Zvi Heller on Wallis Windsor, Tom Nairn on Pol Pot and Jenny Diski on Dennis Potter. And that's not counting unpublished poems by William Wordsworth and Laura Riding, letters by Gustave Flaubert or a short story by Hanif Kureishi.

## London Review OF BOOKS

Alan Bennett  
Martha Gellhorn  
Marina Warner  
Paul Foot  
Tom Nairn

No other literary journal in the English-speaking world can offer such a combination of talent and topics. If your interests are wide-ranging, then the *London Review of Books* gives you today's best literary and political thinking, controversy, an open but not empty mind - and even the occasional burst of merriment.

You may not always agree with our writers, but the *London Review of Books* guarantees that you will be provoked and stimulated. To back this conviction we offer you the next six fortnightly issues free, along with a trial subscription at a saving of 15% off the regular rate. Treat yourself to an unexpected pleasure with our gift of six free issues.

...is only to be expected

LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS, 28, LITTLE RUSSELL STREET, LONDON WC1A 2HN

POST TO: *London Review of Books*, FREEPOST, WC3919, LONDON WC1A 2BR, ENGLAND. No stamp required if posted in UK. Please send me six free issues of the *London Review of Books* and enter my one-year subscription of 24 fortnightly issues at a saving of 15%.

I enclose payment now, but I understand that if, after six issues, I wish to cancel my subscription, I can do so and receive a full refund. The six issues will be mine to keep at no cost.

Mr/Ms/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

RATES: 1 year (24 + 6 issues) 15% off.  
UK: £45.90 (save £8.10); Europe: £56.10 (save £9.90);  
Middle East, Africa, India, Latin America: £62.05 (save £10.95);  
Australia, Far East: £66.30 (save £11.70)

TICK ONE:  
☐ I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to 'London Review of Books Ltd'.  
☐ Please charge my Access/American Express/Diners Club/Visa card  
or call: Tel: (0171) 209 1241, Fax: (0171) 209 1151

No.  Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card expiry date \_\_\_\_\_  
From time to time you may receive information about offers, services and products that may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive these, please tick the box ☐ 13 C

SIX FREE ISSUES PLUS 15% SAVING ON THE SINGLE COPY RATE

# Whatever happened to Sir Anthony Meyer?

**The moment:** Sir Anthony Meyer was the "stalking donkey" who made the Tories quiver a little bit at his effrontery when he ran for the leadership of the Conservative Party against Margaret Thatcher in 1989.

**The intention...** was to wound Thatcher badly enough to bring in one of the Lions, Michael Heseltine, for the second round; hence his nickname as the "stalking donkey". A passionate Europhile, he was 68 and little known beyond his own circle of Euro-friends, and his Clywd North West constituency, when he ran against the most famous leader in the western world. Educated at Eton, Oxford, and a former Scots Guards officer, who became a diplomat in Paris and Moscow after the war, the courteous Sir Anthony admitted that he never expected to win.



**And then...** Sir Anthony took advantage of his 15 minutes to write an autobiography, *Stand Up and Be Counted*, published in 1990. Although the Iron Lady saw off the lanky contender with ease, her invincibility had been dented. Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech inflicted more serious damage, and a Cabinet revolt in 1990 led to the challenge by Mr Heseltine that put John Major in Number 10.

Mr Major therefore has Sir Anthony to thank for his term of office. But the father of four decided to step down from his seat in 1992 after the spectacular disclosure of a 26-year-long love affair with a blues singer and bit-part actress, Simone Washington, 49. His wife, Lady Barbadee, stood by him, and the world boggled at his elderly athleticism. Sir Anthony gave up his Parliamentary career, but he was far from ready to retire from the political world.

**And now...** Sir Anthony, who lives in Brompton Square, will be celebrating his 76th birthday on 27 October, a fortnight after Lady Thatcher's 71st. Her "kiss and make up" appearance with Mr Major stole the limelight at the Tory Party conference in Bournemouth this week, while Sir Anthony stayed away.

The romantic baronet continues his love affair with Europe as policy director of the cross-party European Movement, whose members include Edwina Currie and Labour MP Giles Radice. He was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur in 1983, in recognition of his services to Franco-British relations over three decades.

But while Mr Major fights the tide of Euro-scepticism in his former party, Sir Anthony knows that his job is not done. There is every likelihood that the Tory party will elect a leader even more Euro-sceptic than Lady Thatcher after the next election. He is guaranteed a footnote in British political history for helping to bring her down, but the thought that a Euro-sceptic Tory Party may be led by Portillo, Howard, Lilley or Redwood, is enough to make the stalking donkey restless for another run round the ring of fame.

COLIN BROWN

## Kerber's Week

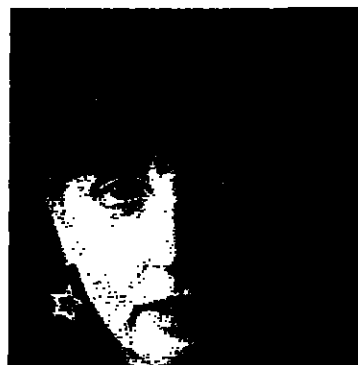


## heavenly

### When is Uranus really bad news?

This week the Tories continued to turn themselves inside out to avoid meltdown over the issue of a single European currency. As Kenneth Clarke tries to hedge the country's bets, it would take more than a crystal ball to predict where the economy will be by next May, never mind in 1999. Watching this ping-pong match of rival arguments, I am surprised anyone can claim to be baffled that belief in astrology survived over so many centuries. Indeed I find one of the most helpful ways to understand this discredited pre-modern mentality is to look at the discipline of economics.

Economists rarely seem capable of accurate prediction: Black Wednesday, when we ejected from the ERM, was only their most recent catastrophic prophetic failure. The Chancellor and Eddie George remain



hopelessly at odds over the ups and downs of inflation vs interest rates. Like rival schools of economists, European astrologers warred constantly over the correct course for a country, a war, a king or a pope. Yet universities granted degrees in the subject, and few heads of state made a move without them. When proven wrong, astrologers simply claimed - like economists - that their methods were not yet perfected or that certain crucial factors had been withheld from them. And like economists, their art was consistently subjected to satire,

ridicule, and scorn. Yet astrologers bobbed with the great and good, clients swarmed to them, and they earned large fees for their opinions through books and journalism. Long after the so-called Scientific Revolution, some of whose heroes were themselves card-carrying astrologers, practitioners continued to receive vast sums of money from a public who remained in thrall despite all contrary evidence.

The historian Michael Hunter recently outed Samuel Jeake, a Nonconformist merchant in Rye and one of the first subscribers to the Bank of England, as an astrologer. In 1694 Jeake was careful to draw up a horoscope for 26 June at 6:30pm, the time he first bought stock in the Bank. He made similar calculations for his investments in the East India Company, predicting accurately that its stock value would slide further. Jeake's investments prospered, and he died a wealthy man. Would we really be willing to take an oath that Lloyd's Gooda Walker syndicate investors had the advantage by living in our rational modern age?

When Jeake made his calculations, Saturn was thought to be the outermost planet, since William Herschel spotted Uranus only in 1781 (originally naming it quite appropriately after the mad King George III). Years ago in New York, someone showed me a chart purporting to be that of the US Stock Exchange, struck for the time of its first trading. They pointed out that at the mid-heaven - the top point of the circle dominating everything - sat the unpredictable planet Uranus, credited by astrologers with bringing swift, violent and unexpected events. This, they contended, accounted for the 1929 stock market crash and crashes still to come.

At that time America was wondering whether the Dow Jones average would ever reach 2,000. As the Dow smashes the 6,000 mark, I occasionally think of this planet hovering up there like a capricious hawk waiting to strike. If theology is queen of the sciences, then economics is their knave and astrology surely the joker.

Ann Geneva

## and another thing...

### When is a cricketing spin doctor useless?

"Useless," says the writer Daniel Pedersen in this week's *Newsweek* magazine. "If you reduce British conventional wisdom about John Major to a single word, 'useless' has been the hands-down winner for years." A plausible claim, but is it true?

We have been checking the facts on our database of British newspapers, which covers a cross-section of the national press - daily and Sunday, tabloid and broadsheet - over the past three years. Our first finding appeared to lend support to Pedersen: the word "useless" occurred 29 times in the same sentence as the name "John Major", compared with only five uses for Tony Blair and three for Paddy Ashdown.

There have, however, been considerably more references to John Major, and thus more chances for him to occur in close proximity to the word "useless", than even taking this into account, he holds a strong lead in uselessness over his rivals.

But is "useless" a "hands-down winner" as claimed? We selected nine other words for comparison. The table below lists the results. The figures are the number of times you would expect to find each word in 1,000 sentences containing the names of each party leader. So, for example, in every 1,000 sentences containing the name "John Major", you would expect to find 14.2 references to "education".

	Major	Blair	Ashdown
education	14.2	34.8	18.2
crime	7.3	18.0	3.8
hospitals	4.6	4.8	3.5
taxation	2.6	6.6	5.1
seize	5.9	3.5	1.3
spin doctor	0.9	8.5	1.1
integrity	1.3	1.8	2.4
Single Euro. Curr.	2.4	1.2	0.9
cricket	7.2	0.6	0.2
useless	0.5	0.2	0.7

Education tops all three lists, with crime a poor second - except for Paddy Ashdown, whose concern for taxation pushes crime into third place. Tony Blair has "spin doctor" above taxation, while John Major has "cricket" in third, followed by "seize". "Integrity" is the only word on which Paddy Ashdown leads his rivals. And "useless". It's the hands-down loser on all lists. Quite useless.

William Hartston

## earthly

### Why can't real men cry?

David is standing on the pavement. While everyone else lingers in the lobby choosing free postcards and discussing whether they can hold on for the loo, David has raced for the safety of the outdoors. It's drizzling, and threatening to turn into buckets - quite appropriate since we've been wallowing in dead babies, incipient tuberculosis and pigs' entrails all afternoon. It rains constantly in Jude, and everybody suffers. Let it never be said that the Russians held the monopoly in gloom.

Anyway, David's pouting, and glaring at a dump bin. I lean against a poster for *Last Man Standing*. "You," I say, "have been crying." This is an excellent tactic if you want to draw attention away from your own mascara-smudged cuffs. We are surrounded by people going "that was wonderful. Fantastic" and breathing through their mouths.

"No I haven't," he says. His eyes



are rimmed red like a Tory propaganda poster. Men are darling when they do that I don't care if I grazed my knee act. He does a long, snotty snort. "The air conditioning in that place is too strong," he says. "My nose is all blocked."

Jules comes out. "Werrr," she says. "I haven't cried that much in ages." "It was okay," says David. "I like films like that. They cheer me up." Jules gives him a look. "So what was that snuffing, then?" "Nothing. My nose was blocked." "Well, how come you kept rubbing your eyes?" "Look," he says. "I'm really tired at the moment. They were hurting."

I did see David cry once, or at

least go pink and start dribbling, which is roughly the same thing. It was the night England dropped out of Euro 96, and every Fringe sweater in London was blubbing into his pig. I haven't had such a good laugh since Squidgygate. I remind him of this. He shows no shame. "Yeah, but that was football. Of course I cry about important things. I just never cry in films. I laughed when Bambi's mother died. I talked all the way through Debra Winger's deathbed speech in *Terms of Endearment*."

Jules and I exchange one of those "men" glances. "Don't do that," says David. "Just because you women can't stop snivelling into your cappuccinos doesn't make it a virtue. Nothing would get done if we all burst into tears every time we broke a fingernail."

"My fingernails mean a lot to me," says Jules. "I invested a lot of time in my fingernails."

We play chicken through the traffic on Clapham High Street. It's the end of the rush hour and the pavements are crowded with Big Issue vendors. I can't let the subject rest. "You really don't cry?"

"Never."

An image from lunchtime flits across my memory. "Bet I can make you cry right now."

"Try it." He pulls the "I come from Yorkshire" arm-fold.

"Remember that call you made to Madrid before we went out?"

"Yer?"

"I don't remember you hanging up."

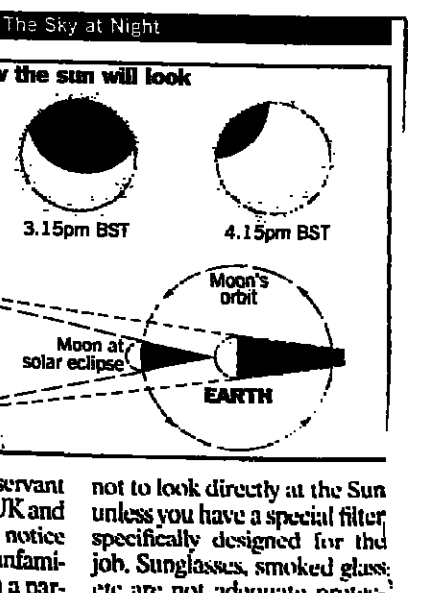
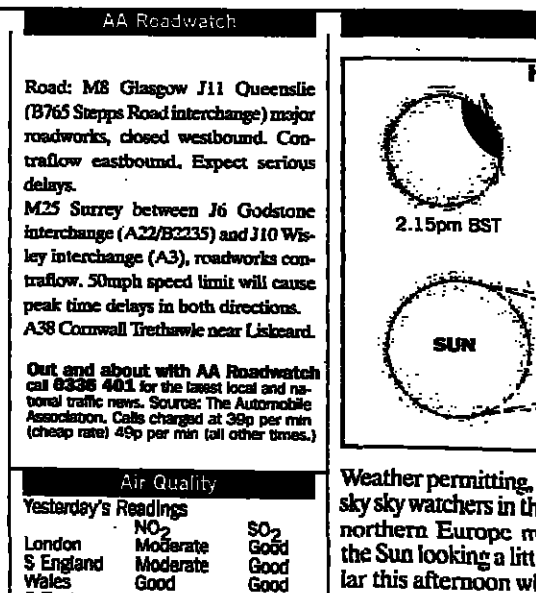
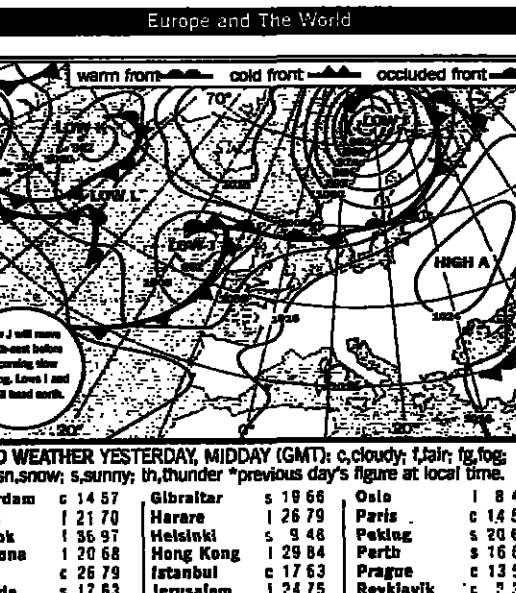
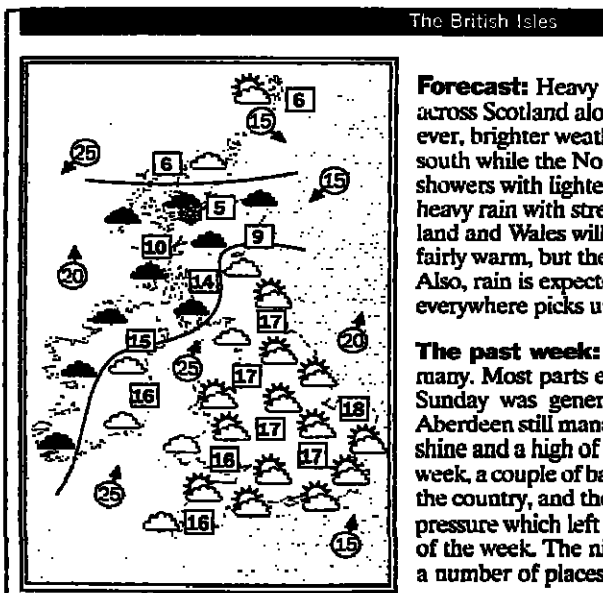
"David goes white, sticks out his hand and disappears in a cloud of black-cab diesel. Jules and I wade on through the kebab-wrappers. "Was that true?" she asks. "Naah. Just an experiment." "Good one."

We pass a kid and his dad. Kid is just pre-testosterone: old enough to recite the names of the Manchester United squad since 1963, too young to insist on changing his own sheets. His mouth is a wobbly "O" and his fists are clenched. "I don't want to," he wails. Papa stands three paces away. "Stop it, Michael," he intones. "You're too old to cry."

At the bus stop, a man in a corduroy bomber jacket is locked in denial with his girlfriend. "I was having trouble with my contacts," he says in that irritated whine usually reserved for younger sisters, "and anyway, I think I'm coming down with a cold." Her laughter rings out over the hydraulic psht as the bus door opens.

Serena Mackesey

## weekend weather



## Something worth talking about.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345 554554 OR 0345 I FLY BM

British Midland The Airline for Europe

Return fare from London Heathrow. Available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel insurance and Saturday night stay. Passenger taxes will apply.



هكذا من الأصل



John Walsh meets...  
John Fuller

# Full of feeling

At 7.40 pm on Wednesday evening, in the Groucho Club's crammed and sweaty Soho Room, they named the country's best poet. The judges of the classic, Bookerish Forward Prize looked at a shortlist of new poetry collections, that included the work of last year's Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, and decided to hand the £10,000 prize money to John Fuller, for his book *Stones and Fires* (Chatto).

Poets don't get in the news much. They have to be Nobel prizewinners, or suspected pornographers, or the creators of the "nation's favourite poem" before they out a quiver in the needle of public awareness. Fuller's sudden *réclame* will make few headlines outside the literary pages of the broadsheet papers; but to a hefty percentage of the country's most notable versifiers, he has been their mentor, impresario and chief of men.

As Professor of English Literature at Magdalen College, Oxford, for the last 30 years, he has seen a bewildering number of his students become poets and writers - many of them published for the first time by Fuller himself, in his tiny Sycamore Press imprint. The Fuller Gang amounts to a literary generation of writers in positions of power: Jackie Fenton, now Professor of Poetry at Oxford (like Fuller's father, Roy), Alan Jenkins and Alan Hollinghurst, both prize-winning authors and presiding spirits for years at the *Times Literary Supplement*; Mick Imlah the poet and, former poetry editor at Chatto & Windus, now also at the TLS; Andrew Motion, the multifaceted poet, novelist and Larkin biographer, now Professor of Creative Writing at East Anglia... A conspiracy theorist might infer from this roll-call that some Parmassian Cosa Nostra has been operating for years, stretching from Magdalen's draughty cloisters to the heart of Grub Street, and they'd probably be right. But you can't blame Fuller for that. He does not (like, say Leavis) send his acolytes into the world to spread some moral message, nor (like, say, Eric Griffiths at Cambridge) send them out to become vitriolic critics and media huffers. Fuller's influence is far more benign and creative. He has played the role of guru, exemplar and *cher maître* for so long, he has quite forgotten to give himself the airs that go with it.

"I'm not sure about prizes," he said, when we met the next day, which was National Poetry Day. "I don't know how far you can seriously raise public consciousness about poetry. Having a 'National Poetry Day', like a No Smoking Day, is just shoving the problem. Things which should be rights be every day are not best served by these things." He is happy, however, by the way poetry's profile has changed since he started out in 1961 with his debut collection, *Paiground Music*. "When I began, poetry was very academic. You published little pamphlets from fancy presses. There wasn't much public reading. Then there was poetry and jazz, which I don't think worked, though I love jazz. Then there was the moment when the American Beat poets arrived in Oxford in 1957, and were very charming and exciting. But you get these lurches towards popularity all the time. In the Thirties, don't forget, you had Auden putting poetry on the cinema screen, with Orson and the GPO film unit. Whenever there's a move like that, I think it's very healthy. It's always good to show that poetry isn't the little depressed lyric people believe it to be, that it's something bigger."

"Little depressed lyrics" are not what you get from Mr

Fuller. His prodigious talents have been sprayed over 13 verse collections, six novels, an anthology of love poetry, critical works, children's books. His ability to turn his hand to the most demanding and *recherché* poetic forms, from the alexandrine to the double dactyl, makes him the natural heir of WH Auden, whom he holds in virtually unquestioning reverence. His technical skill is seen at its best in his light verse, in poems like "Valentine", a beguilingly varied litany of louche desires ("I'd like to make you Charlotte Russe / I'd like to make you reproduce") that many smitten poetry-lovers, disdaining the products of the greeting-card industry, have mailed to their sweethearts in mid-February.

"That was its purpose, of course," murmurs Fuller. He is a modest, rather diffident man, happier explaining some prosodic detail than talking about himself. There's a wariness about his light blue eyes as they look on to yours (sitting with him, you soon slide into tutorial mode) and across his acre of brow worry-lines run like musical staves, waiting to be soothed with notes.

For all the game-playing skill of his light verse, there's a core of difficult, hard-won, secretive wisdom about his more serious poems that may elude the casual reader. Like Thom Gunn's heroes, Fuller's most brilliant poems "turn" with disinterested hard energy like the stars. They are not open to simple exegesis, and neither is their creator. This has bothered Fuller's critics and fans alike in the past. They claim he is all dazzle and no feeling. They point to the way the titles of his collections - *The Mechanical Body*, *The Beautiful Inventions* - draw attention to their inorganic essence, their made-up-ness. They go on about his "artifice" and his "civilised obliquity". Did he mind?

"Hmmm. I think a lot of people can write poems that are howls of anguish. I think I've probably written such things and then torn them up. But I think obliquity is a serious part of what poetry does. It's a come-on. It's more than just being clever. It's saying, here is a verbal artefact. You, dear reader, will have to work this out, and will get pleasure

in his own life." The book opens with two spectacular set-piece reflections on history and political strife. The first is an elegy to Angus McInyre, the senior history tutor at Magdalen and a friend of Fuller's from way back. "He was a wonderful tutor and a most humorous man," says Fuller. "To some extent, we lived our lives in parallel, as academics, as fathers. We were together at a college Christmas dinner, said farewell, and he drove off to Scotland and was killed on the motorway near Preston." The poem "History" puzzles away at the concept of history and how chronically we fail to make sense of it - to read the signs, to interpret "the right way to proceed", to learn from past failings, before yielding to Fuller's aching desire to memorialise his old friend, with his gleeful piss-taking and his vaudeville "Take care, laddie". The second poem, "Europe", is a *tour de force* of 22 sonnets, in which Fuller inspects the continent with the detachment of an astronaut and sees nothing but internecine strife, bitter violence, civilisation suddenly imagined as a slumberous, threatening beast in a cage.

to each other in the same language. I think any writer - any citizen - feels that if we do that enough, we probably won't cut off each other's heads with a saw..." It's the myth of nationhood he most detests, the revival of ancient tribal hatreds - a Europe which becomes "one ethnic group torturing another ethnic group out of some ridiculous, spurious ideal. It's so depressing."

Fuller is 60 next year, but doesn't look it. (He looks, in fact, like a retired gangster in a television cop series; he'd suit a Pringle sweatshirt and a set of knuckledusters.) One studies his face for signs that he is turning into his father, Roy Fuller, the poet, who famously held a career in a building society all his life; but the father's lean features and galloping-major moustache belong to another generation. "He played a kind of role as Corporation Man," remembers the son fondly. "He liked his professional life. He was very good on committees, unexpectedly gregarious. He was a shy man, but he came to life in the Woolwich, which he cared for enormously. He hated the way building societies were tending - how they

He was in the RNVR during the war, you see, working as a naval air-fitter. My mother and I moved around the country with him while he was training, and suddenly he was whipped off on a troop carrier. I remember him going, I remember him having to shave off his moustache because you weren't sup-

and spur each other on. "Favouritism? I wouldn't call it that," says Fuller defensively. "It wasn't a college duty. These were just students I got on with or thought were interesting, or were keen to write. I mean you couldn't have everybody up to stay. Some students might not want to write..." And the ones who gravitated to Fuller's side - would he nurse their talents along? "It sounds so impersonal and deliberate, put like that. I was just being friendly. And most of my friends now are former students."

Was there a competitive atmosphere in the cottage? "Perhaps slightly competitive," he admitted. "It was creating an environment where you could get work done. Perhaps it was selfish because it was very good for me. If you've got a household of people who know they have to get up, work all morning, do something energetic in the afternoon, and read aloud in the evening, it's stimulating. And they still come. Alan [Hollinghurst] still comes a lot, and writes. I think there's a nice feeling that we're getting on with it..."

Getting on with it was what Professor Fuller does best. Thirty books done, his *Collected Poems* published next year, a new generation of aspirant bards to be guided and calmed down, a fresh set of projects, new poetic forms to tackle ("I found the Pushkin stanza very difficult," he confesses, "but I took it that the difficulty it created was part of the point..."). A prodigious and apparently tireless maker, he is a one-man assembly line of the last, and technical brilliance is only a means to an end. "I think a lot of the things I do luckily don't get noticed, and I'm glad," he said finally. "A poem should be just a thing you read and it should work on you. You shouldn't be able to see the machinery."

His career as an Oxford don has constituted a kind of constantly shifting and renewed family life for some years; Fuller and his wife Prue, who teaches handicapped children in Oxford, have a cottage in Wales, where the most creative of his students (or well-favoured, or pushy, depending on whom you talk to) are invited to stay in vacations, in order to write and swap ideas

**"Urbanity? You know what urbanity means? It means two men who live in the same city who are able to talk to each other in the same language"**

from doing so. But what it contains at its heart is a form of truth about emotions or feelings which is to a degree generalised or hypothesised or fictionalised. There are long poems of mine that are full of feeling, but transposed, that are one step away from anything I might say in my own voice." He shook his head. "Quite honestly I don't understand what more people require of you."

*Stones and Fires*, the prize-winning collection, offers something new to Fuller fans: the spectacle of a poet becoming, simultaneously, more public and more private than they had encountered before. The judges' chairman, Alan Jenkins (that's right, one of Fuller's ex-students, but an incorruptible chap and a previous Forward winner) was in raptures: "The book has all the virtues Fuller's known for, the verbal richness, the wit, the dandy stylisation, but there's also a lot of deep feeling - grief, sorrow, a kind of world-woe - coming strongly through the poems. The subjects aren't altogether new, but you feel there's a deeper connection with events and with the loss he's suffered

"I have written public poems before," said Fuller, "but yes, this sonnet sequence is newish for me. I was very affected by the Bosnian conflict right back in its early days, say 1991/2. I found myself profoundly affected by things I was reading about and seeing - in particular, a photograph of someone having their head cut off with a saw. I was on holiday in Corsica at the time, just lounging around, and started writing these sonnets. It was something to do with the distance I was from home, about being in the Mediterranean, in the middle of Europe, and being able suddenly to think about the place in some kind of perspective, while being very troubled about Bosnia."

It struck me that the language of the sonnets displayed a cold fury, a disgust with "Europe's stinking armpit and unravelling sleeve" (which I took to mean the Balkans) that's pitched some way from his usual cool urbanity. Fuller jumped on the word like a policeman. "Urbanity? You know what urbanity means? It means two men who live in the same city who are able to talk

started as mutual societies and now they were becoming limited companies. He loathed that. My father was an idealist and a socialist, very strongly so, and I think some of his later cultural attitudes, the old-bufferedness that some people complained of, were very misunderstood."

Roy Fuller died a couple of years ago and the poems devoted to his memory in *Stones and Fires* have ever written. In particular there's "A Cuculshoc" which has the unusual distinction, for a poem about a toy badminton set, of reducing all who read it to tears, including your humble scribe. The title is a childish mangling of "shutlecock" in a letter to a father who is abroad: the image of the shuttlecock, hovering suspended and not-quite-reachable in the air, assimilates both the father absent and, 50 years later, the father dead.

"It is an unusual poem for me because it uses a real letter that I'd written to my father," said Fuller. "When my mother died, I got a whole lot of papers, and I didn't remember writing this letter.



TONY DICKINSON

As You  
Like It

by William Shakespeare



An evening of real delight, genuine enchanting music

Niamh Cusack's graceful Rosalind...  
Liam Cunningham is a shining Orlando...

Reduced price previews from Friday, opens October 23  
Barbican Theatre  
0171-638 8891

The production is sponsored by



# arts & books



Family ties: Lorraine Ashbourne as May in 'Fool for Love'

Photo: Geraint Lewis

## How's your father?

THEATRE Fool for Love, Donmar Warehouse, London

By Paul Taylor

I've heard of keeping it in the family, but this is ridiculous. Having just played Jocasta, mum and wife to Oedipus, that terrific actress, Lorraine Ashbourne, heads straight into the role of May, the woman who has much more than a blood bond with her half-brother in Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love*. It's only a matter of time before Ms Ashbourne makes her operatic debut as Sieglinde.

In Ian Brown's revival at the Donmar Warehouse, the actress is partnered by Barry Lynch, who plays rodeo rider Eddie, the sibling who has tracked her down to a godforsaken motel room on the edge of the Mojave Desert and is doomed to go on loving her and leaving her for ever. These are two of my favourite performers and they pull off certain riffs of extraordinary intensity here. But, as with all the English productions I've ever seen of this author's work, I kept getting the uncomfortable sense that what I was witnessing was actually a talented team on *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* who'd been told to improvise a Sam Shepard play. American actors have equivalent difficulties with the pauses and elaborately veiled power games of Harold Pinter.

Before *Fool for Love*, a Shepard play in which the woman gets as good a dramatic deal as the man seemed about as likely a proposition as a refuge for battered wives run by Ernest Hemingway. In Brown's production, though, the balance arguably swings too much in May's favour. The look-at-me, insecure swagger of Lynch's macho preventions – all that show-off lassoing of the bed knobs and the ludicrously phallic cleaning of his short-

gun – is exquisitely funny and pathetic. But, to my mind, it showed us this character from May's point of view and not enough from his own. Lynch is better at projecting the calm, dangerous insolence with which Eddie runs laconic, self-amused rings round the ill-at-ease, slow-witted hunk (very well played by Martin Marquez) who comes to call on May and gets treated to the dreadful story of how their incest arose and the resulting suicide of Eddie's mother.

The drama takes place under the monitoring eye of the Old Man (Gawn Grainger) who fathered them – an irresponsible phantom who interrupts the action with his special pleadings and his shifty, highly American championing of fantasy over fact. Brown's production is at its most powerful when this figure forsakes his lofty chair and enters the motel room, creating a wonderful circuit of quiet disturbing energy as he gazes at his daughter gazing at her brother/lover. At first invading the space with a misplaced proprietorial confidence (adopting a position on the bed that brazenly mirrors the one his son took up), the Old Man is eventually reduced to a coward's unlovely wriggling as he tries to evade facing up to the terrible consequences of his stubborn, deluded individualism. Less than utterly convincing in her wall-banging paroxysms of demented frustration earlier in the play, Ashbourne beautifully transmits the drained realism of May at the end. The spectre of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* vanishes completely.

30 Nov. Donmar Warehouse, London WC2 (0171-369 1732)

## Clive and kicking

There's something iffy about the BBC simply buying programmes ready-made from a rival channel. Whatever the licence fee is for, you suspect it's not meant to be siphoned into big-money transfers. In importing Clive Anderson from Channel 4 after Clive James had already exported himself to ITV, BBC1 has plainly chosen to do unto others as it has had done unto itself. They swiped our Clive: we'll have yours.

So, business as usual for Clive Anderson All Talk (BBC1, Sun). No one would stomp up umpteen squillion to play Alan Shearer in the midfield holding role, and the Beeb didn't nab the last surviving chat-show host to front a legal queries phone-in. To make him feel as if he hasn't moved at all, the set has undergone only subtle modifications: a handyman has shifted a couple of planks, maybe changed the odd lightbulb. In one bold innovation, the rancid stand-up routine is now delivered from behind the desk. But the gag about the names of Paula Yates's children was a clear signal that the show plans to make nostalgic expeditions to familiar pastures.

The guest list had a formulaic look about it: as usual, one crackpot and two moneypots trooped on to fog their wares. Madame Vasso's evasions gave Anderson a rare chance to prove that he really did use to be a barrister, a claim we've always had to take on trust. He's actually a lawyer in the same way that Adam Faith is a rock star. Dosh (C4, Thurs), a kind of *Money Programme* for financial neanderthals, would not have been made if Faith hadn't once had a sexier job. Similarly, Anderson could never sell himself as this dull, bald man-without-qualities if he hadn't been at the Bar in another life.

Except Madame Vasso wasn't playing ball, crystal or otherwise, Fergiegate being, as far as she was concerned, *sub judice*. And somehow it looks as if a gagging order has been slapped on Anderson, too. Although he was hired as the only chatshow host prepared to be rude without donning the armchair-plating of a fictional personality, the BBC can't afford to offend guests than Channel 4. Hence Anderson could be as cruel as he liked to Madame Vasso, who will soon no doubt disappear for good into the hole she crawled out of. But Ben Elton went mysteriously unmugged for using the royal we (of the Duchess of York's royal me). And Eddie Murphy was



Jasper Rees on Television

never invited to explain, as he would have been at Anderson's old address, why these days his films are so crap.

Equinox (C4, Sun), investigating transport disasters, grippingly argued that some of us are better equipped by biology than others to flee a flaming aircraft or jump a sinking ship. The findings can be pretty accurately transplanted to television. Just how do presenters cope when a vehicle designed for their sole use simply goes up in smoke, or suddenly capsizes? Disaster survivors, it was argued, tend to be both highly extrovert and deeply psychotic. Meaning, roughly translated, that they're nifty at elbowing other people out of the way. As they rushed to save their own lives, some survivors reported going on to autopilot and seeing in tunnel vision, a sensation that autocue readers experience on a daily basis. Look at the way Anderson effortlessly survived the ill-fated *Notes and Queries*, which sank without trace. One day Clive James, doubtless, will take the Murdoch shilling, and Clive Anderson will transplant his show to ITV: in the light of *Equinox*'s research, he could call it *Clive and Kicking*.

In National Wonderbra Week, Playtex have been very publicly donating £1 to breast cancer research for every undiwired cleavage enhancer sold. Less widely reported is their pocketing of the other £19. That's a big sack of potatoes, as they say in Madame Vasso's house. But Playtex are not clear winners in the bra wars. Her profile boosted by modelling for Gossard, Sophie Ander-

ton has landed a job presenting *Desire* (C4, Thurs), a mildly irreverent new fashion magazine. It's unclear what qualifications she brings: for a start, she is required to wear clothes, not something she's previously achieved in public before. With her commodities concealed, your vision is diverted to a pair of playful eyebrows that jiggle up and down with clockwork regularity. You can almost hear a producer off-camera exhorting her to look animated. Either that, or she's mentally clearing a set of sleeping policemen embedded in the autocue.

*Thief Takers* (ITV, Thurs) is back with new recruit Amanda Pays. Pays is one of those actors who has somehow ended up famous for no particular reason. Whatever she was known for before, it wasn't for thwacking down doors in the peaked cap of a Met marksperson. Her presence here does nothing to overturn the impression that *Thief Takers* is a newspaper cartoon strip. As soon as she appeared, you wanted to place a bet on how soon two male colleagues would place a bet on who'd get into her knicker first. (More sleeping policemen. And just as lifelike.) Unfortunately, they'd made their wager so quickly you didn't even have time to get your potatoes out.

Pays will presumably attract the thinking man's vote in next year's National Television Awards. The oddity of this year's awards (ITV, Wed) was that the presenter, Trevor McDonald, also picked up a gong. "And the winner is... me!" He'd obviously have no trouble crawling from a smoking wreckage. Across the Atlantic, though, they make their oddities bigger and bolder. Vince Gill, who presented the 1996 Country Music Awards (BBC2, Sat), was nominated for seven of them, and won two (the second with Dolly Parton. Who, it was confirmed in the Chancellor's Bournemouth speech, is definitely not a Wonderbra woman.)

The CMAs, incidentally, cleared up the mystery of how come Madame Vasso's potatoes former client is forever flying Concorde to the States. In Nashville, a porky woman with a larval flow of incandescent red hair came on stage and made a lot of noise. Wynonna, a country superstar with *muchas paatas*, has never been seen in Britain. Could they in some mysterious way be the same person?



Robert Hanks on Radio

On God in a White Coat (Radio 4, Thurs), Geoff Watts was trying to find out why spiritual healing has been gaining popularity in recent years, and whether there's anything to it. On the one hand, we had healers and their supporters (including the odd GP) talking about connecting to a higher – or possibly a deeper – aspect of ourselves, and channelling a universal love energy. On the other, we had conventional medicine asserting that any improved affective state could be explained in terms of what we know from psychoneuroimmunology about the endocrinal system... Stop right there: I think we have an answer.

Whatever else you may think about spiritual healers, you have to admit that they've got the customer relations side of things all sewn up, with all this comforting talk of love and higher selves.

Look how shrewdly they've co-opted the word "healing", with the slight but inescapable implication that healing is what doctors fail to do. Most of all, they've got simplicity on their side – it all seems so transparent.

The fact is, healing is about as transparent as fog. Some of what Watts was told here was superficially logical gibberish – like the man who claimed that conventional medicine hasn't learnt the lessons of modern physics concerning the interconvertibility of matter and energy: the body can be addressed as energy, just as it can be addressed as matter (well, horseshit can be converted into food, but that doesn't mean you can eat it). More of it didn't even pretend to be rational – indeed, it flaunted its irrationality, knowing that this is attractive to many people. It's very hard for the scientific mind to grapple with wooliness: as a result, several of the voices here ended up snarling impotently about returning to the Middle Ages.

Contrast this with *Bodies of Evidence* (Radio 4, Weds), in which Tony Robinson asks scientists what millennia-old preserved bodies can tell us. This week it was all about plants and animals – what we can learn from the lumps of moss found

among the clothing of Otzi, the 5,000-year-old Austrian iceman, and from the mistletoe pollen in the stomach of the 2,000-year-old Lindworm Man (aka Pete Marsh). The conclusions in both cases were tentative: Otzi may have taken the moss either for insulation or to wipe his bottom; the presence of mistletoe may indicate either ritual slaughter or severe mental difficulties (since it was apparently a popular way of treating fits).

But the joy of this series isn't so much what you find out as the lucidity and enthusiasm with which it is explained to you. Part of the credit must go to Robinson, who abandons some of his more irritating mannerisms to show that he has a knack for reducing complicated matters to simple terms; much of it, you suspect, is a matter of culture. For doctors, technical language can be a way of establishing their authority, both to lay people and to colleagues. For palaeobotanists, who probably don't count many fellow palaeobotanists in their immediate social circle, the ability to explain what they do is a vital social tool.

By the way, the producer of *Bodies of Evidence*, Andrew Johnston, is one of nine radio features producers who have recently

been made redundant in Bristol – in his case, apparently, because the received wisdom at the BBC is that there is no longer a market for the sort of programme he makes. Meanwhile, over at Radio 1, Andy Kershaw has been shifted from his slot on Sunday nights between 10 o'clock and midnight, to make way for a new programme called *The Album Show* – mmm, that sounds like a tasty recipe for fresh sounds and musical styles. Kershaw will have a new slot running from midnight until two o'clock on a Monday morning: those listeners who stay up will be able to hear the melancholy sound of him rattling together all those awards he's won in his years at Radio 1. You will notice they make a somewhat hollow sound.

In both cases, what you're seeing is the progressive blinding out of the BBC as it worries more and more about appealing to the widest possible audience. The Corporation is retreating from eccentricity, from programmes that tickle the intelligence or offer a little shock of novelty, and falling back on reliable crowd-pleasers. It has lost confidence in the intelligence of the general public and in its own standards. You know what would make it better? A little more faith.

EN  
O

"...the best Vixon anyone is over likely to see..."

October 18/19/20 (15/16)  
November 6/7/8  
14 at 7.30pm  
November 18 at 6.30pm  
Tickets from £6.50  
London Coliseum  
Box Office  
0171 632 8300

The  
Cunning  
Little Vixen

Leos Janáček

Steve Gillett

Steve Hill / Newsteam

THE WEEK IN REVIEW  
David Benedict

	THE PLAY	THE MOVIE	THE GIG
overview	Laughter on the 23rd Floor	Lone Star	Metallica
critical view	Gene Wilder is the star of a 1950s TV satire show written by a bizarre assortment of characters in Roger Haines's production of Neil Simon's autobiographical play, the latest in a stream of his comedies to hit these shores.	John Sayles's epic crosses the thriller with the Western, interweaving plotlines about mysterious deaths and hidden family histories. With Chris Cotton, Elizabeth Peña and new Hollywood heartthrob Matthew McConaughey	The biggest thing to have come out of San Francisco since Armistead Maupin, with whom they have precisely nothing in common. The world's leading heavy metal combo have (gasp) shorn their locks and embarked on a UK tour.
on view	David Benedict enjoyed "more successful gags than you have any right to expect". "Wilder can say more with a raise of the eyebrow than four pages of script. A must for comedy-lovers," applauded the <i>Mirror</i> . "Could transform Simon's British fortunes. You will laugh a lot," agreed the <i>Times</i> . "Wilder... a masterclass of technique, timing and charm," saluted the <i>Mail</i> . "Dire's the word," growled the <i>Standard</i> .	Adam Mars-Jones admired its aims but felt "it badly needs a shot of adrenaline". "Stands head and shoulders above most recent American movies, cheered <i>Time Out</i> . "Sayles... retains all his qualities of intelligence, political acuteness and narrative lucidity," judged <i>Sight &amp; Sound</i> . "A richly textured epic," proclaimed the <i>Times</i> . "We can only wince at the didactic clumsiness," sighed the <i>FT</i> .	Ryan Glibbey giggled at the heavy metal pomposity but "these songs linger in your ears long after the painful ringing has subsided". "An epic set," ejaculated the <i>Express</i> . "This relentless assault on the senses did somewhat undersell Metallica's more subtle, complex qualities," whispered the <i>Times</i> . "Crudely refined noise... a worn-out pastiche of itself," snorted the <i>Birmingham Post</i> .
our view	At the Queen's Theatre, London W1 (0171-494 5590)	Cert 15, 135 mins. At the Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) and across the country.	Earls Court tonight; then Cardiff, Manchester and Sheffield on Mon, Tues and Wed.
	Rolf Saxon runs Wilder a close second in this very American comedy.	A sprawling but typically iconoclastic film from Sayles.	A tinnitus-inducing sound level and an electrifying finale.

KEY  
EXCELLENT  
GOOD  
OK  
POOR  
DREADLY

Dr's.co.uk



# Living life for the common people

The glue that sticks the nation together or a barrier to the development of a mature democracy? **John Campbell** investigates the role of the Queen in today's society

**The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II** by Ben Pimlott, HarperCollins, £20

**T**he news that Ben Pimlott was writing a biography of the Queen raised eyebrows. It seemed an incongruous, even perverse, project for a hitherto exclusively Labour historian. Why should he want to do it? Would he have the necessary contacts? What could he possibly bring to a subject already copiously covered by well-connected royal specialists like Elizabeth Longford, Anthony Holden and (earlier this year) Sarah Bradford?

Such doubts reflected a long-standing convention – combining academic snobbery with inverted social snobbery – that serious writers did not bother with the monarchy. The Queen was both personally uninteresting and politically unimportant: not so much beyond criticism – as she was at the beginning of her reign – as beneath it. *The Independent* in its early years had a policy of burying royal stories in three lines at the bottom of page two, or even ignoring them entirely. Elsewhere gossip had replaced gush, but royal-watching was still the preserve of the tabloids.

Today all that has changed. The functions and future of the monarchy are now matters of consuming interest – not least in *The Independent*. (Only members of the Government and Opposition still dare not join in.) By luck or shrewd judgement, Pimlott's book is perfectly timed to give historical focus to this burgeoning debate.

He has succeeded triumphantly in his unlikely project. He has written a book which can be enjoyed and admired by people who would never have imagined reading any previous royal biography. He has done it not by adapting his approach to the conventions of the genre, but by deploying the same skills he has previously brought to Harold Wilson and Hugh Dalton. What he has written is not a "royal biography" at all, but a political biography whose subject happens to be a Prime Minister or Chancellor of the Exchequer, but Queen. He has got round the problem that so little is known about Her Majesty's private opinions not by speculating on the basis of hints and hearsay but by sticking firmly to the sources he has been able to assemble – which turn out to be surprisingly good. If the result is a study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role, then that is entirely proper in portraying a woman who has almost totally subsumed her private personality in her public duty.

Pimlott is frankly less interested in the Queen herself than in the changing iconography of the monarchy over her lifetime: the way her image has been manufactured and manipulated from babyhood onwards to suit the political needs of the Government and Establishment of the day. This has its personal side: the rapturous accounts of "the little Princesses", Lilibet and Margaret Rose, were a priceless antidote to the Abdication; pictures of Elizabeth in ATS uniform doing her bit with a spanner helped the war effort; her wedding was an excuse for the first national celebration after the war, temporarily dispelling the gloom of economic crisis and continuing rationing.

But it also has a more mystical aspect. The Coronation had a real effect in reinforcing national identity, the idea of a New Elizabethan Age marking a genuine sense of an optimistic new beginning: 25 years later the Silver Jubilee – in the middle of another period of national doom and gloom – showed a remarkable persistence of faith in the monarchy; while even last year, with most of the magic gone, the appearance of the Queen and her mother on the palace balcony was still the symbolic climax of the VE-Day anniversary. Pimlott shows how both Harold Wil-



Smiling in the face of national disaster: The Queen and Jürgen Kinsmann at Wembley, June 1995

son and Ian Smith sought to use the Crown for opposite purposes at the time of Rhodesian UDI; how the Thatcher Government exploited Prince Andrew's participation as a helicopter pilot to fuel patriotic enthusiasm for the Falklands war; and how skilfully – at least in the early years of the reign – different images of the Queen were projected to appeal to different countries of the Commonwealth. He meticulously marks the steps by which the Palace, in the person of successive private secretaries and press secretaries – first came to terms with and then tried

– unsuccessfully – to control the ever-growing public appetite for information about the royal family. He is gently satirical about some of the early manifestations of loyal gush; but coming at the subject from a primarily political perspective, he has a keen sense of the strategic calculations that lay behind even the most sickly fantasy-mongering – until, that is, it all went horribly wrong.

Contrary to expectations, he has gained access to some excellent sources. He has naturally made good use of the public

records, the Royal Collection (up to 1952) and the papers of politicians; he is particularly strong on the dealings of Labour Governments with the Palace on sensitive matters like the Civil List. But as well as the familiar published diaries, he has found sharp insights in the unpublished diary of Jock Colville, who between his two spells as Churchill's private secretary served Princess Elizabeth in the same capacity.

The Avon papers have yielded a regular correspondence between the Queen and Sir Anthony Eden, after his fall, commenting frankly on the performance of his successors. The Kennedy Archive in Washington has thrown up a chatty letter to JFK, mixing politics and family gossip; another letter from the Royal Collection to her racing manager Lord Porchester, all about Dr Nkrumah, has somehow slipped through the Palace net. He has also got hold of a correspondence with her dressmaker, Hardy Amies, full of tart reminders of the need for economy. None of this is sensational, but it gives the book more of the spice of the Queen's own words than previous biographies have managed.

Then there is interview material, a high proportion of which is openly attributed. Inevitably there is still a good deal of "a courtier commented", "a former lady of the bedchamber recalls", referenced in the notes as "confidential interview". But those who have spoken on the record include the former principal private secretary Lord Charteris, the former assistant private secretary Sir Edward Ford and – most remarkably – Princess Margaret. Such high-level sources lend this book an unprecedented authority.

Pimlott is undeniably weaker on the human side. His account of the Queen's marriage is surprisingly thin. Prince Philip's rumoured infidelities do not interest him: this is a matter on which he has no serious evidence, so as a good historian he leaves it alone. More questionably, since the collapse of her children's marriages is a matter of public concern, he offers very little discussion of the Queen's alleged shortcomings as a mother. The defence that "there are many women today who find it necessary to delegate responsibility for their children because of employment that is less demanding than being a Monarch" may be true; but it is still a bit of a cop-out.

Altogether the book falls off towards the end. Perhaps recent events – the tawdry shenanigans of Charles and Di and Fergie are just too familiar, and Pimlott has nothing new to say about them. There is a sense of relief in the final chapter when he gets back on his own ground with a brief summary of the case for republicanism. For a moment he seems to have some sympathy with the abolitionist argument that the survival of the monarchy corrupts the entire body politic, making us all "subjects" instead of "citizens" and rendering impossible the development of a mature democracy.

All the traditional arguments put forward since 1953 to justify the monarchy – the unity of the Empire, the preservation of the social pyramid, the model family – have crumbled. But then he turns the argument on its head: the "golden thread" of the monarchy is so inextricably woven through the national fabric that it cannot be unstitched without intolerable damage. The monarchy is not a barrier to social progress, but in fractured post-Thatcherite Britain a source of social cohesion, even a check on the excesses of the loony right. His final paragraph would not have disgraced Cawcote himself. If Pimlott was not a royalist when he started, writing this book appears to have made him one.

## Module behaviour

How does the mind work? **Colin Tudge** explains

**The Pre-History of the Mind** by Steven Mithen, Thames & Hudson, £16.95

**The Pre-History of Sex** by Tim Taylor, Fourth Estate, £18.99

**T**wo books on how human beings came to be the way we are, by two clever, articulate archaeologists. But while one (Mithen) has gone with the flow of modern evolutionary ideas, brought them together, and generated novel and valuable insights, the other (Taylor) has fought a politically correct but misguided rear-guard action against modernity.

Mithen points out that the explanations of how the mind works have taken two contrasting forms. The influential Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget believed that the mind operates as an all-purpose computer: a general intelligence. Even language is a manifestation of a general ability to process information. But other thinkers argue that the mind is built from a series of discrete "modules" or "domains", and is designed expressly to deal with specific problems. Thus Noam Chomsky suggested that children's ability to pick up language cannot be explained as a general exercise in problem-solving. Human language depends for its versatility and efficiency on its underlying syntax, which is broadly similar from culture to culture although the details differ. Children acquire the ability to apply syntax accurately even though the clues they gain from listening to people around them do not provide nearly enough data from which a general problem-solver could infer the syntactical principles. We must conclude, said Chomsky, that children are born with an

innate and discrete ability to handle words in an orderly fashion: a language module.

Others have extended Chomsky's idea and suggested that the human mind is equipped with a range of such modules, each geared to a different task; indeed, Leda Cosmides and John Tooby have recently been comparing the mind to a Swiss army knife – a collection of problem-solving tools, each operating more or less autonomously. Cosmides and Tooby argue that each of these mental tools – modules – has been shaped by natural selection over the past few million years to solve the specific day-to-day survival problems of early humans. Thus our ancestors evolved a face recognition module, a tool-use module, a social exchange module, and so on.

In practice, neither a Piaget-style general computer nor the Chomsky-Cosmides module model seems able to explain everything the mind can do, but Mithen shows how the two can do so together. In an adroit shift of metaphor he compares the structure of the mind to the architecture of a cathedral. The chapels around the periphery, each dedicated to a different purpose, are like the modules; while the central nave approximates to general intelligence.

Now, says Mithen, whereas in the earliest Romanesque churches the chapels and the nave are sequestered behind thick walls with narrow openings, in late Gothic cathedrals the walls are reduced to

columns so that people and sounds flow freely between all parts. So it is with minds: in primitive minds the modules are separate, while in the minds of modern healthy adults information flows freely.

It is easy to envisage how this cathedral-like structure has evolved. Mithen suggests that the minds of our very early, shrew-like ancestors were highly specialised, meaning modular: they did a few things well. In the first true primates that evolved from these primitive "shrews" the modules became more integrated, to produce a freer flow of information. Then more modules were added and they in turn became re-integrated, and so on. The emergence of true humans (*homo habilis*) around two million years ago coincided with the acquisition of new modules of social behaviour; and modern *homo sapiens* appeared around 100,000 years ago when these modules were finally re-integrated to produce the computer-like, highly efficient hybrid structure that we still possess. All in all, *The Pre-History of the Mind* is set to join the canon of essential texts and is also an excellent read.

Tim Taylor has assembled excellent material in *The Pre-History of Sex* and shows that human sexual behaviour has always been more various than we have been led to believe. At the way-out level, cave paintings from stone-age Italy show a man contriving to have his way with an elk. At a more homely level, man's vision of

ideal woman seems to have varied enormously from age to age, from melon-bellied terra-cotta stone-age "Venuses" to modern Twiggies.

How should we explain such variations? Sociologists traditionally did not try; important human behaviour is rooted in culture, they said, and *vive la difference*. But modern evolutionary psychologists seek unifying features, with origins lying deep in biological history. Thus Devendra Singh of the University of Texas has shown that although stone-age Venuses and modern pin-ups may differ in bulk by 50 per cent or more they all have precisely the same ratio of measurements of waist to hips: 0.7. Singh then shows that women with a 0.7 waist-hip ratio suffer fewest obstetric setbacks, and live longest.

This and comparable ideas from evolutionary psychology are precisely what Taylor needs to bind his observations into a tight thesis of human sexuality, just as Mithen has done for the mind. But what does Taylor do with such insights? He derides them, suggesting that the universal preference for a waist-hip ratio of 0.7 has been prompted by the centrifugal force of Playboy.

Singh's work may well be open to criticism but Taylor's reason for rejecting it is silly. Yet it is politically correct (and specifically in the manner of Stephen Jay Gould) to reject all explanations of human behaviour that are biological rather than sociological for (so Gould would have us believe) the biological explanations lead us into "genetic determinism" and the rejection of free will. But they don't or at least, only in knuckle-brains. Taylor has been led astray. Gould has a lot to answer for.

## Getting off Scott free

**Hugo Barnacle** re-visits an old political scandal

**Rinkagate: The Rise and Fall of Jeremy Thorpe** by Simon Freeman

and Barrie Penrose, Bloomsbury £16.99

**T**he innocence of Rinka seems to be a major theme of this exhaustive and bleakly funny re-investigation of the Jeremy Thorpe affair. Yet the authors admit that Rinka, the Great Dane belonging to the Liberal leader's spurned lover Norman Scott, was "highly excited" that foggy night on Portlock Hill, "jumping" at the terrified gunman Andrew Newton, who "thought he was being attacked by a man-eating donkey."

Many people had they been in Newton's shoes, at a late hour on a lonely moor not a million miles from the old stamping ground of the Hound of the Baskervilles, and had they happened to have a pistol handy, might have found themselves tempted to do as Newton did, and open fire before the fangs came any closer.

Simon Freeman and Barrie Penrose concede that many people might have been tempted to shoot Norman Scott as well. He was an exasperating tar-baby of a man who was unable to make his way in life except by bawling on to people who felt sorry for him, and who was equally unable to repay those people except with tantrums and petty acts of spite.

Freeman and Penrose are convinced that Newton was sent to murder Scott, not simply to frighten him, and only failed because the ancient Mauser jammed after firing the one round that killed Rinka, so the poor animal indirectly saved her master's life. But Newton, a self-confessed liar and fantasist, kept

changing his story when caught, and the jury at Jeremy Thorpe's trial did not find him a reliable witness.

As to who hired Newton, it was a friend of Thorpe's called David Holmes. The contract fee of £10,000 was major spuds in 1975, improbably large for a mere frightening job. Thorpe obtained it, by written request over his own signature, from the millionaire philanthropist Jack Hayward in the Bahamas, claiming it was to cover Liberal Party election expenses. Police traced it by bank paperwork through a secret Party account in Jersey, on to Holmes, and on to Newton. They also recovered Thorpe's letters to Hayward. But as soon as you mention offshore bank accounts to a jury, they get confused and stop listening.

Holmes, as Thorpe's co-defendant along with the two Welsh businessmen who recommended Newton for the job, did not testify. The only witness who said Thorpe had been planning for years to kill Scott was Peter Bessell, sometime Liberal MP for Bodmin. But Bessell was another self-confessed liar, with a string of failed businesses and duped creditors behind him. Furthermore his hair was dyed an unconvincing shade of orange. So his story went for nothing.

Scott himself was more than pleased to tell the court, as he told everyone he met, about his homosexual affair with Thorpe. A guilt-ridden cradle Catholic, he stated that homosexuality was an incurable dis-

ease with which Thorpe had infected him back in 1961, and that Thorpe should therefore have looked after him for the rest of his life. Bent on revenge ever since Thorpe dumped him, he had continually pestered the man for cash while threatening to go public. Freeman and Penrose insist that this was not calculated blackmail. It was just Norman being Norman, but the jury may have felt less confident on the matter. Scott was yet another dodgy witness.

The not-guilty verdict is an outrage to Freeman and Penrose, but it was handed down for the same reason as in the OJ Simpson trial: the prosecution didn't present their case very well. Even so, Thorpe had already resigned the Liberal leadership and was soon forced to quit public life altogether. In an interview with the authors last year, a satisfied Scott "laughed and slapped himself, delighted" that Thorpe is now dying of Parkinson's disease in obscurity.

As a political scandal, *Rinkagate* is old news. But as a story of people's failure to recognise or tackle their own shortcomings – Thorpe's hypocrisy, Scott's self-pity – it is quite instructive.

Royal Festival Hall  
on the South Bank

**cinematic**

Friday 25 October  
Sunday 3 November 1996

For Booking and Information  
Call 0171 960 4242

Britain's biggest and most exciting festival of poetry from far flung corners of the world including Australia, USA, Russia, Hungary, Nigeria, Japan, Ireland and Poland.

# Guns and poses

Roy Foster admires the style of an Irish political mistress

Hazel: A Life of Lady Lavery 1880-1935 by Sinead McCool, Lilliput, £25  
Michael Collins: A Life by James Mackay, Mainstream, £17.50

The "art of biography" has been replaced by the selling of Lives, and these two books provide an instructive contrast. Michael Collins arrives landed with hype, "under strict embargo", "remarkable...hitherto unpublished material", "an important bearing on the solution of the present [Northern Irish] dilemma". In fact it says nothing substantially new, and says much of that inaccurately. The first biography of Hazel Lavery arrives unhyped, but turns out to be new in every way, containing material which radically changes perceptions of several important figures from the early 20th century - including, as it happens, Michael Collins.

Hazel Lavery effortlessly attracted publicity all her life. Yet previous attempts at biography were boxed by the apparent disappearance of papers, recovered by Sinead McCool, many of surpassing political interest. One of the great beauties of the early 20th century, she stares out of society portraits and early Beaton photographs swathed, turbaned, bejewelled, most famously, as the personification of Ireland on the bank notes of the new state in the 1920s. Beaton's description captures it: "that goitish Luni mask...the ravishingly chiselled, rabbit nose, ruby lips down into a pout, wistful hare eyes, pink lids."

The mystique was facilitated by being married to an influential painter, John Lavery, who possessed a good eye for a "public" subject but also remained fascinated by his much younger wife and painted her obsessively until (and on) her death-bed. It also owed much to her own genius for reinvention. Born into the self-made Chicago bourgeoisie, her Irish connections were distant. It is a Jamesian story: the "original" American girl who falls in love with Europe and acts as a catalyst for upheavals which end in ultimate disillusionment. But her importance in Irish history is established by this book.

Her salon, her love affairs, her political nationalism have long made up one kind of myth behind the achievement of Irish nationalism. Because this hinted at liaisons with heroic figures like the IRA guerrilla supremo Michael Collins, a countering myth swiftly grew up: Hazel Lavery as a self-deceiving fantasist, who invented love affairs with glamorous revolutionaries as soon as they were safely dead. Faced with scraps of documentary evidence, the more pious authorities were unabashed: Hazel had fabricated letters to herself, or interpolated passionate passages into them. But this, along with a good deal else, is firmly

contradicted in McCool's unassuming but decisive treatment of her life.

In fact she never really lived in Ireland: her London salon at Cromwell Road was the centre of her life. As a hostess she used lack of money to stylish advantage. She could also, like Diana Cooper, cash in on her fortunate face by advertising Pond's Cold Cream or driving a free Armstrong Siddeley. Intelligent as well as witty, she wanted more: she found it in Ireland. After the 1916 Rising, as the political situation radicalised, she and her husband supported the radical nationalist side. Lavery, though knighted for his services as a war artist and very much part of the establishment, was by origin a Belfast Catholic; Hazel rediscovered her Irish roots. During the early weeks of the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations in 1921, Collins met Winston Churchill off-duty at Cromwell Road, while Lavery painted portraits of most of the Treaty delegates for his "Irish Collection", a project suggested by Hazel. She threw her weight behind the Treaty: an adroit social fixer, after independence she longed to run Ireland from the ex-Viceroy's Lodge. Still, her private relationships remained obscure.

But she kept her letters, enabling McCool to recount matter-of-factly several affairs with leading political figures. Hazel's relationship with Collins may not have been fully consummated - she seems to have been keener on admiration than sex - but it is clear from the notes and poems to "Dearest Hazel" that he was deeply smitten; they were almost inseparable just before his death in 1922; and her passionate mourning for him now looks like reality, not self-deception. Just as telling is the solicitude with which his old comrades (and his sister) treated her afterwards sending her the mementoes he kept of her and assuring her of his love. There are further surprises, including a garrulous *amitié amoureuse* with Ramsay MacDonald, unrecorded by his biographers. But the real revelation in this book is her subsequent affair with Kevin O'Higgins, the strong man of the Free State government and national leader-in-waiting, who was also gunned down by Republican opponents. His besotted letters are at utter variance with his puritanical image (and with the letters he simultaneously wrote to his wife); there is no question that this was a grand obsession. Much as with Parnell's secret letters to Mrs O'Shea 40 years before, they show a longing to be "free" and a private reaction against politics which would have appalled his associates.

This would also have appalled posterity in Ireland - at least until quite recently. Not the least important thing about this book is the extra dimension it adds to national heroes - and the fact that Irish public opinion has been able to take this in its stride. It also gives a memorable portrait of Hazel herself. McCool is judiciously unafraid to show that her subject could be at times foolish bigoted, self-obsessed and tedious, as well as brave, imaginative and in the end independent. Her political involvements, and the violent deaths of so many close to her, accentuated a certain seriousness. She knew her face was her fortune; a merciless small boy noted that when she cried, her tears made "tunnels" down the make-up on those spectral cheeks. But she mockingly described her own appearance during her last illness as "the imaginary child" of Gandhi and Margot Asquith. As for Lavery, he painted her throughout, finally producing a macabre study of her coffin.

Given this high-voltage material, McCool's understated but sympathetic approach is exactly judged. Mackay is correspondingly unfortunate: heroic biography leaves little room for additions to Tim Pat Coogan's racy but widely-researched treatment of Collins six years ago. Mackay adds some details about his early employment in the Post Office and that is about it. The author's lack of familiarity with Irish conditions is constantly betrayed (the Collins family inhabited a "tiny farm 90 acres in extent"). His effusions are suggestive of a previous work, *William Wallace: Brave Heart*. "The true Celtic temperament" counts for much; the hero "moves with the grace of a ballet dancer" and his "generous mouth tightened dourly" at the sight of Dublin Castle. Historical background is crude and inaccurate; religion has nothing to do with the "twisted logic" of Ulster Unionism, the complex contingencies of the shift to armed resistance after 1916 are blithely ignored, staggering speculations are presented (if Collins had lived partition would probably "have been nipped in the bud", by the simple expedient of "leading a strong army into the North"). One unsubstantiated anecdote follows another in a style that alternates genteel gush with flaccid cliché ("Quite frankly, Cathal [Brugha] was jealous as hell"). The relationship with Hazel Lavery is dismissed in two glancing references. Collins was much more interesting, and much more complicated than this; so was she; so, for all the alternative reality of publicity writers, is history.



Hazel Lavery: "Ravishingly chiselled, rabbit nosed and wistful hare eyes", as Flora at a ball in 1914

## Liars on a grand scale

Philip Hoare investigates the tricky business of film biography

The Real Life of Laurence Olivier by Roger Lewis, Century, £17.99

Rosebud: The Story of Orson Welles by David Thomson, Little, Brown, £20

Roger Lewis dislikes the restrictions of biography, and scorns the petty conventions of chronology. But such conventions exist for a reason: they work and Lewis's account jumps about like a cricket on a hot plate; to misquote Dickens, it plays sad havoc with the tenses.

And yet - Lewis's empathy is admirable and his analyses of Olivier's *oeuvre* sincere. His headlong plunge into the world Olivier creates around himself in *Wuthering Heights* brings the performance to life; Olivier's Heathcliff "is not an ignorant and rude lot, he's a gypsy baron - indeterminate and with night hanging in his eyes", less felicitous are descriptions of Geraldine Fitzgerald's "washed-out, shaggy-tooth look" or *Gone With the Wind* as "the most

cumbersome and crappy film ever made". All good fun, but one longs for something less high-octane; just as one might have done in Larry's company. And like Lord Olivier, Lewis's own prejudices get the worse of him: discussing the intimate relationship between Olivier and Noel Coward, Lewis announces, "Homosexuality is a mockery of nature...a conspiracy...as bad as anti-Semitism."

David Thomson is also given to addressing his readers: "Orson Welles lied a lot you will see. You may even decide that he lied all the time as the only available way of keeping patience with life." Although as much a biographical dissenter as Lewis, Thomson allows the facts to speak for themselves in a vital account of Welles's rise and fall. Like his subject,

Thomson becomes a showman, taking on Orson's mythomanical timbre: Welles does not eat a steak dinner, he *inhales* it. Having made his point about Welles's self-fantasy, we then to place our trust in his champion? Another biographer's quandary. The reader - perhaps unreasonably - wants the truth, and the author knows it, worrying that "unlikelihood casts a shadow on your pleasure". The problem of how to portray a character who spent his life portraying other characters is addressed by both Lewis and Thomson, and both employ subjectivity in its solution, with varying degrees of success.

The highpoints of Thomson's book are naturally those of Welles's life. Welles's beginnings in theatre in Ire-

land and with his own company, Mercury, are vividly described; you can feel the man's energy. *The War of the Worlds* charade is a defining moment: Welles's sonorous interpretation deceiving a populous because of his authorial weight as a narrator in the *March of Time* newsreels. Welles's voice seems critical to his conception; that "superior fraudulence" which became as parodic as Olivier's. And as with Olivier, the lure of the movies was a dubious siren career call. In Welles's entry into Hollywood, Thomson sees a "Faustian bargain", yielding theatre credibility for illusory screen success.

"People had to work hard to resolve to dislike Welles; otherwise they were seduced." Sexually, these included Dolores del Rio, Rita Hay-

worth, Vivien Leigh, Marlene Dietrich and Judy Garland; and most of those within a ten-year span. With *Kane*, both Welles and Thomson prove the power of that attraction: the sheer anarchic drive (fuelled by Benzedrine and two bottles of spirits a day), evading Hollywood's "industrial grip" to produce his masterpiece.

Thomson is not loathe to compare *Kane* with Welles, and the "dreadful, ruined narcissism" which would overtake the actor-film-maker-showman. With *Kane*'s relative failure, Welles pursued the rest of his life at speed, "doing too much, yet not enough of it seemed worth the effort". Welles's weight became a carapace of disappointment: despite nearly-great comebacks such as *Touch of Evil*, the promise remained unfulfilled.



## shelf life

Philip Kerr reviews his own back catalogue

### Subliminal Cuts

(juvenile) I harboured literary ambitions from the moment I could read and started writing long before I had anything to say. Throughout my adolescence I turned out a series of awful poems and plays and, when I was 16, a dreadful novel called *Subliminal Cuts*. It was about a man having a relationship with two women at the same time. I destroyed it a long time ago.

### The Berlin Noir Trilogy

I set myself an almost impossible task with my first novel, *March Violets*, which was to recreate the atmosphere of pre-war Berlin. I wanted to imagine what would have happened if Chandler, who spent his youth in Dulwich, had moved there, rather than to California. At the time research seemed to be the key to getting published, so I spent hours tramping around Berlin; the whole process took about three years. I felt sufficiently interested in my gumshoe (Bernie Gunther) to write another two novels, but I didn't want to get stuck with him forever, so I decided to quit and try something else.

### A Philosophical

I wrote this as an antidote to all the research I'd been doing - an imaginative novel that needed no location work at all. I wrote it from a woman's perspective which was fun to do, and I think I pulled it off. Certainly, women say that I got her character exactly right.

### Dead Meat

Writing is such a solitary existence that it sometimes feels as though the characters you are creating are your only companions - that's a huge incentive not to get writers block; because

you are making up people to spend time with, but in *A Philosophical Investigation* I had to inhabit the mind of a killer: a nasty, but not depressing, sensation. My worst experience was working on *Dead Meat*. It was 1991 and lived in St Petersburg for three weeks researching the Mafia. I spent a lot of time drinking vodka with the police, who really were low-life. I was frequently carried insensible from people's houses.

### Gridiron

This was set inside a modern office block and although I started off hating modern architecture, after a great deal of research I ended up loving it. In 1995 *Gridiron* was awarded the *Literary Review's Annual Bad Sex Prize*, for the worst written description of sex published that year. I was less upset about that than my lack of redress during the ceremony: they pulled the plug on my mike.

### Esau

When I was at school teachers were always telling us to "write about what you know" but I prefer to start from a position of complete ignorance. In this novel, there wasn't much opportunity to exercise my unbridled interest in sex because *Esau* is set on a snow-covered mountain in the Himalayas.

### A Five Year Plan

The title is taken from *The Third Man*. Tom Cruise bought the film rights before it was even written, which made some people accuse me of cynically writing screenplays disguised as novels. All I can say is that if it was that easy I'd have done it a long time ago. It took me 15 years to get published and seven of those were spent near the breadline.

## Sweet boys with insufferable parents

What happens to little stars when they grow up and stop twinkling? Peter Parker reports

The Moving Picture Boy: An International Encyclopaedia 1895-1995 by John Holmstrom, Michael Russell, £39.50

The title of John Holmstrom's handsome encyclopaedia is taken from a song composed and sung by Kenneth Casey, "the Vitaphone Boy": "Every time my face is flashed upon the screen, he warbled unblushingly, 'They say: 'Oh, he's the sweetest thing we've ever seen.' The accompanying photo shows an extremely decadent-looking child, androgynous of feature, haughty of expression, somewhat reminiscent of Adore Loomis, the repulsive child star very satisfactorily stamped to death at the climax of John Schlesinger's film version of Nathanael West's *The Day of the Locust*. Holmstrom has been unable to find a genuine model for Adore (played by Jackie Haley in the film), and his book is in some ways a corrective to the popular image of the child star as monster. This does not, however, restrain him from making some pleasingly astringent comments about the talents and behav-

iour of some of his subjects. Of Anatole "Bebe" Mary, an infant phenomenon of the early French cinema, he records that Pathe's Louis Feuillade "had had about enough of 'Bebe', with his prima donna airs and his insufferable parents; but he couldn't possibly dump such a valuable commodity until he had found a successor whom the public preferred". "Bebe" was eventually replaced by Rene Poyen, but was immediately taken up by Gaumont and was still acting in his sixties.

Not all child actors were so fortunate, and much of the interest and poignancy of this book comes from learning what happened to these little stars when they reached maturity and stopped twinkling. While Serge Grave was still playing schoolboys at 19 ("with some grace, but...here was a strong sense of knobbliness"), and Wesley Barry continued to teenagers into his mid-thirties, others grew up all too soon. Poyen's

career was over by the time he was 17: he ended up "director of a rubber factory in Paris".

Some of these actors failed even to reach maturity: six-year-old Breezy Eason, Jr., "Universal's Littlest Cowboy", was crushed by a truck on one of his film director father's sets; Lawrence McKeen ("Baby Snookums") died of blood poisoning at the age of eight; and Norma "Chubby" Chaney, "resident fatso" of the "Our Gang" films, died aged 17 of a glandular disorder which had seen him tip the scales at a grotesque 300 lbs.

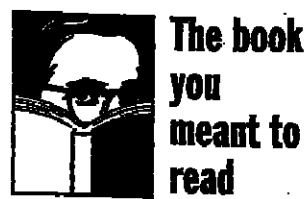
Not all child actors were doomed, however, and even those who failed to make it as adult actors of often made use of their first-hand knowledge of the business, becoming directors, editors, cameramen or technicians. Some grew up more than others: Jackie Moran, 1937's "Chuck Finn" and Buster Crabbe's juvenile sidekick in the Buck Rogers

space series, ended up writing scripts for Russ Meyer Tommy Kirk, "the Disney boy actor" of the 1950s, came out as gay - not something calculated to delight the distinctly conservative Uncle Walt. These are the sort of quirky details that make Holmstrom's book so engrossing.

Early child stars were worked very hard, particularly those who appeared in the "Our Gang" series of shorts, started by Hal Roach in the 1920s and still going strong into the 1940s. "Parina", Hoskins, a black actor whose hair was usually done up in braids and who was "all too often required to weep or goggle in craven fear", clocked up 106 of these films between the ages of two and ten. The rewards could be considerable. In 1916, at the age of six, "Little Billy" Jacobs was earning an astonishing \$10,000 a year. Inevitably not every diminutive star benefited so directly from his earnings. The greatest of all the moving picture boys, Jackie

Coogan, earned some \$4,000,000 during the 1920s, but was later obliged to sue his mother and step-father in order to recover what little remained after the legal fees had been deducted. Holmstrom writes that Coogan "left the world groggy with admiration," but he never falls into this trap himself. He judges these boys rigorously, not only on what the Germans call *Moppehaffigkeit*, but also on their acting skills. In some cases these were negligible, and Holmstrom says so. The book is beautifully produced, profusely illustrated, contains scrupulous filmographies and two indexes (of boy actors and film titles) in addition to the general one. A companion volume on moving picture girls is forthcoming, completing a project that will be invaluable for reference and make a fascinating contribution to our knowledge of the ways in which children have been viewed and treated in our century.





The book you meant to read

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (1848) by Anne Brontë

Plot: The novel's narrator is Gilbert Markham, young farmer and decent chap. He falls in love with Helen Graham, the beautiful, mysterious tenant of Wildfell Hall. She has a son and is presumed to be a widow. The locals gossip about Helen's "friendship" with her landlord, Frederick Lawrence. Initially Gilbert is sceptical, but subsequently overhears an intimate exchange between Helen and her friend, loses his temper and thumps Lawrence. Helen, afraid that Gilbert will push off, reveals all to him in a diary. Her dark secret is brought to light. When young she married Arthur Huntingdon, a drunkard and a rake, in standard Victorian fashion. Helen believed that the love of a good woman would reform him, but Huntingdon is beyond her redemption. She runs away to brother Lawrence who provides the tenancy of Wildfell Hall. After Gilbert learns the truth, Helen returns to her husband who dies of dissipation. She is now ripe for re-marriage. Gilbert joyfully complies.

Theme: Marriage is not what it is cracked up to be. Helen's union with Huntingdon proves to be a legalised misery. Good behaviour cannot purify a depraved character. Helen's virtues prove less attractive to her husband than the brandy bottle.

Style: The galloping melodrama of the plot is curbed by a prose which owes more to *Mansfield Park* than *Wuthering Heights*. The mixture of Gilbert's staid narration and Helen's emotional diary is piquant.

Chief strengths: Brontë's straightforward honesty of purpose constantly surprises: "I maintain it is better to depict vice and vicious characters as they are than as they would wish to appear." (Preface). Helen's boredom and despair is counterbalanced by a sympathetic understanding of Huntingdon's self destructive addiction.

Chief Weaknesses: The concluding tinkle of wedding bells is hard to accept, given the acrid portrait of the nuptial condition.

What they thought of it then: Reviewers noted the book's skill but deplored the "morbid love for the coarse." There was disapproval of the "spleenetic bitter tone" and the "disgusting language". It was deemed "unsuitable for lady readers."

What we think of it now: Anne is emerging from her role as the anaemic Cinderella of the Brontë sisters. Her forthright approach is less scary than her siblings, but it is also less insistently "romantic".

Responsible for: The forthcoming BBC adaptation which will suffer from the usual costume elephantiasis and remodel Wildfell Hall as a cross between Castle Howard and the Escorial.



The book you listen to

Poets for Pleasure: John Donne (Hodder: Headline, £7.99) is a quite excellent selection of Donne's love poems, sacred poetry and prose, with a useful short introduction. Luminously read by Vanessa and Corin Redgrave, by turn passionate, teasing, furious and philosophical.

The Nation's Favourite Poems (BBC, 2hrs, £7.99) is an exhilarating enough career, although its hard to come freshly to poems like "To Daffodils" and "To Autumn" and there is the odd annoying emphasis ("I will arise and go now..."). But a great way to relearn the bits you've forgotten.

Christina Hardyment

# That universal feeling

Bernard O'Donoghue celebrates the short lyric poem

The major challenge facing the volume of short lyric poems has always been how to achieve with its small components the thematic weight of longer works.

Christopher Reid makes it clear from the outset in *Expanded Universes* (Faber, £6.99) that he is aware of this dilemma, and doesn't care. The Universes of his title come from Alexander Calder, in a wonderful passage which Reid uses as epigraph: "They weren't intended to move, although they were so light in construction that they might have swayed, a little. In the breeze." The circular forms have some kind of cosmic or universal feeling. It is a perfect definition of the facts that the most successful small poems often are, while also claiming universality for them.

Reid's expanded universe often make such persuasive claims for largeness, in poems like "The Fly" which transcendentalises Donne's earthy, vulnerable creature: "A few inches above where the fly flies a gap of air waits, but this has not yet been vacated to the fly. The question is: will it ever be? This is typical of how Reid's lightness is a matter of

carriage rather than substance. The poems constantly exceed their unself-importance, in the Kiplingesque "Stones and Bones" for example, or by leaving unstated the too devastating logic of their conclusions. The explanations of mermaids is "something on the brain too wicked to think about"; the question of the motivation of the audience for (strip) "Don't ask"; there is no point in intervening in the bullying of a child because "it's too far from this desk."

"Modest" is the word that has traditionally been applied to this inconclusive quality in Reid. But these endings are not negative in their effect because it is stressed throughout that our general malaise as a species comes from a bizarre principled refusal to respond to love. Reid's expanded universes are ours viewed through binoculars.

Though Brian Patten comes from a very different socio-poetic milieu, he shares Reid's account of our frailty, reinforced in *Armada* (Flamingo, £5.99) by the powerful opening sequence of poems about his mother's death which culminates in "Five Down," a wonderfully spare and bleak lament for the senses, recalling the

old English *The Seafarer*. Her hands have abandoned the feel of cloth.

Her tongue has let go of tasting. Patten's great gift is the clarity and force of his language. Here, more than in any previous book, that strength is put to the graver service of elegy, its plainness reinforced by apt literary allusion.

"Lockerbie", for example, is a reworking of Thomas's "Aldestrop"; and the book's masterpiece is a magnificent wry reworking for the Liverpool poets of Dunbar's "Lament for the Makaris", pondering the brackets that will enclose our birth - and death-dates:

Tumour-ridden, the brackets close in. They drop against the ends of names. Not orderly, but say old how. Heart, Mitchell, McGough - watch it, mates.

The brackets, any day now. Through his career Patten has performed the remarkable feat of increasing in clarity, force and depth at the same time. *Armada* is his best book yet.

Maura Dooley, like Patten, holds the attention unfailingly in *Kissing a Bone* (Bloodaxe, £6.95), but by very different means. Even in her longer poems (a few, such as "Home", are very short, with a Menckel-like intensity) every word demands consid-

eration; nothing has been written lightly. The death of her father dominates this book as Patten's mother shadows his. In the most haunting poems Dooley shows by linguistic intercutting how the humdrum consciousness is invaded by grief, as in "What Every Woman Should Carry": A credit card. His face the last time, my patience, my useless youth. That empty sack, my heart. A box of matches.

The hint of danger in that last detail brilliantly merges the contents of heart and handbag, like a postmodern "Rape of the Lock". Like both Reid and Patten, her concern is with the difficulty of giving a convincing exterior form to love which belongs to the "heart". So, behind the grave, measured control of language, Dooley holds in reserve a capacity for the chilling - macabre as in the volume's title.

Introduced by the poems on bereavement, most of *Kissing a Bone* is written from a precarious present which is expressed in the heading to the book's second section "The Future Memory" (a tempting overall title). Images from photography, politically balanced with gun-shooting, are the central expression of this moment. In Robin Robertson's *Camera*



Beyond the known world: medieval man breaks through into the modern world Photo: AKG

*Obscura* (Colophon Press, £10) "Image" seems too abstract a term for the physical centrality of the camera and its products.

Robertson's extended poem tells the story, through fictional diaries and poems, of David Octavius Hill, the mid-nineteenth-century Edinburgh art photographer. All the time references are to May, between 1838 and 1870, emphasising like a medieval love-poet the promise, often dashed, of spring, expressive of the tragedy of Hill's life. Beyond using the camera as

an image of the imagination and the unreliable fragility of its products (like Antonioni's *Blowup*), Robertson branches out into wide-ranging philosophical areas, particularly light which works like time in Shakespeare's sonnets: "The light that made it now dismantles it." It is also a figure for the failure of post-Enlightenment Scotland to attain nationhood: a tract for the times.

Robertson's poem is an essay in the most successful of the solutions to the long-poem dilemma, the sequence.

It combines the compulsion of a single central story with the looseness of its Menckel-poetry-prose form (using, for example, Colum's "She Moved Through the Fair" as a delightful bonus.) Like Robertson's fine lyric poems, *Camera Obscura* is full of memorable and quotable moments: "After long exposure /ghosts returned to their bodies."

It is an unequalled delight and makes, again, a strong case for the longer verse structure: another way of expanding the universe.

# Shouting out boldly from the back of the bus

Kate Clanchy prefers the raucous to the navel-gazing in a round-up of new collections

The imagination of the poet, according to Shakespeare, gives "to airy nothing a local habitation and a name" - to an idea or an emotion, in other words, a tangible place and an audible voice: a home. It is this sense of home that makes Rita Ann Higgins's poetry in *Sunny Side Plucked* (Bloodaxe, £8.95) so refreshing. Higgins is blissfully sure of her voice. Like one of those extraordinary Irish women who will sit beside you on the bus, settle her shopping in her lap, fix you with one wild blue eye, and strike up an astonishingly colourful and confidential conversation, Higgins's poems simply launch into stories - "She wasn't always this bitter /I knew her when she sang in pubs"; autobiography - "My father just passed me /In his Fiat 127 /I was cycling my bicycle, hideous"; or fantasies - "I always /Have my hair done /So I can look good /In the bath /In case /Kim

Basinger /Calls round" - with complete confidence that we know her relatives, history, hometown, her whole, off-kilter frame of reference. Which, because her world is so confidently realised, we soon do.

Higgins's voices are so distinctive and real that a whole world of semi-rural Irish poverty rises around the reader with the jolting acuity of an excellent documentary. Being drawn into Higgins's home is an hilarious, absorbing and thoroughly disturbing experience, and as such constitutes a political statement.

Paula Meehan explicitly takes on the idea of home in *Mysteries of the Home* (Bloodaxe, £7.95). Her vision is equally Irish but far more literary, crafted and careful than Higgins's. In "The Pattern", for example, she constructs the world of her early childhood and the dominant figure of her mother from precise details neatly rhymed:

She has come down to me of hers A sewing machine, a wedding band A clutch of photos, the sing of her hand

Across my face in one of our wars Meehan's exact eye and mastery of evocative detail is equally effective when turned on the present ("My Love About His Business In The Barn"), or on the detritus of the past ("Two Buck Tim from Timbuktu").

Something, however, something crammed with moons, talismans, spells, archaisms and exclamation marks takes over her delicate language when she strays from this personal territory into the darker and vaguer area of myth. The individual, precisely realised mother of "The Pattern" becomes, in "The Ghost of My Mother Comforts Me", an abstract force promising: "Because /I am your mother /I will protect you /As I promised you in childhood /You will walk freely on the

planet /My beloved daughter"; and in the process loses all her character, common sense and individual voice.

Pauline Stainer's poems are extremely airy, both intellectually and sensually. They deliberately eschew, by reason of their extreme cleverness, anything so parochial as a local habitation. To read her new collection, *The Wound-Dresser's Dream* (Bloodaxe, £6.95), you will need a working knowledge of Keats, Ruskin, Primo Levi, *The Green Children of Woolpit*, and Joseph Knecht; and be prepared to toss around dreams like post-modern juggling balls. It's actually quite fun in Stainer's world, so full of crystals, ice, and endlessly deferred meaning: weirdly light and fantastical, like lying in a greenhouse. It's not ever cosy, though.

There is little point in looking for comfort in Stephen

Knight's new collection *Dream City Cinema* (Bloodaxe, £6.95). Life, home and meaning just keep rushing past Knight. In between, people endlessly, poignantly miss things - their mothers, their grandmothers' death, their wife's surprise party - and are nibbled inexorably to dust by some superbly evoked bugs. Even the mermaid, that age-old representative of femininity or mystery, is locked in Knight's competition-winning poem, "In A Tank", and may only be seen through a glass, darkly. It makes for grim, if compelling, reading.

I'd advise Knight to move to the country, where poets have so often found meaning in daffodils and so forth - but Matthew Francis's first collection *Blizzard* (Faber, £6.95) seems to indicate that things are no better there. Like Knight, he writes about not finding home, about not being able to give a name to his expe-

riences, about the dissolving of the self. Thus, Francis's opening poem "Bee Storm in West Middlesex" is an exercise in high irony, its precise title a joke: the poem is about not writing about bees. The poet is alienated from himself ("He sat in high office") and from the poem ("It was a poem about bees") and bees, in any case, defy being written about. The resulting poem is evocative, open-ended, deeply lonely - a very fair introduction to a book which culminates in a long poem about an apocalyptic blizzard.

My suspicion that only young men can maintain this level of gloom and alienation for an entire book is confirmed by Tobias Hill's new collection *City of Clocks* (OUP, £6.99). As Hill reminds us in his award-winning title poem, we are doomed to be separate. Even if "we hold hands /Our pulses chat against one another, like teeth: gaug-

ing the distance were apart." Alienation is essence, and to Hill's persona, allowing him to observe with a cool, sharp, journalistic eye and taut turn of phrase, first the weird juxtapositions of modern Japan, where Mister Fatboy holds court in Hiroshima, then the daily grotesqueries of London life. Through all this, we gain curiously little sense of a person, or a voice. Hill remains, as he says, "stopped in mid-step /Watching where the action is".

That couplet would do for Francis and Knight too: they are not concerned with creating "a local habitation and a name" but with recreating the experience of nothingness. For all of them it is an authentically realised and no doubt profoundly felt position: but for myself, I prefer Rita Ann Higgins' voice, however crazed and uncrafted, shouting out boldly from the back of the bus.

Kate Clanchy's *Station* has just won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection.

# Poetic first-aid for a dislocated world

Ruth Padel applauds a classic anthology for the Nineties

*Emergency Kit: Poems for Strange Times* edited by Jo Shapcott and Matthew Sweeney, Faber, £9.99

*Emergency Kit* is an important, original anthology with a unique premise. Remember a Kit Kat advertisement a while ago? You're behind prison-bars of Kit Kat, two snapped off by someone "making a break". That's all you see. Its strategy - a story semi-disclosed by visual detail, wit based on punning - is this book's dynamic. The editors, cutting-edge poets in this area themselves, have chosen 222 English poems by 157 wildly various poets from all over the world, plus a data-base of Irish and British poets who began publishing in the late Eighties and Nineties.

The editors' principle is generosity (not always paramount in poetry circles) towards work superficially very different from their own - which, unforgivably, they leave out. They focus on a "territory of strangeness". I'd call it a dynamic of surprise, running through the work like dark wire. Some poems mine it direct, others tap into it rarely, but its presence salts the rest

of their work. Seriously playful, but not clever for the sake of it, these poems take what Frost called "a fresh look and fresh listen." They won't touch rhetoric. Like the Kit Kat ad, they go for the unspelt-out, for irony, risk, humour, and diamond clarity. Revelation through concrete detail, no seductive petals of abstraction.

Many use film-technique, tracking, cutting, frame-shift, or assume an in-your-face intimacy with readers. "Bear with me," murmurs Michael Donoghue. "You don't understand a word I'm saying, do you?" asks Carol Ann Duffy. Such territory is where these poems see authenticity today. They suspect you do too. Shopping, driving, reading (or writing) newspapers, watching TV, you take for granted that imaginative bounce which is the essence of these poems.

For precursors, the editors looked to the Fifties, especially the US galaxy: Sexton, Plath, Frost, Hecht, Lowell,

Berryman, Roethke, Ginsberg, Bishop. But the master-presence is Kafka. Everything turns on his "surrealism of the everyday". The cover design is "by Franz Kafka" (someone had fun at Faber): his drawing of a hangman-figure reeling before an easel, partially occupying the empty canvas.

The touchstone is Charles Simic, American poet from ex-Yugoslavia: master of the dark, spare and wry, with tragedy a heartbeat away. Simic has the epigraph, and the most poems. Also crucial is Eilean ni Chuilleanain ("I want to lie awake, listening to cream crawling to the top of the jug"). Adepts of surprise, both use parable to destabilise metaphor. "Crawling cream"? Imagery, or what?

Traditionally, metaphor *sauces* itself out of the world, while parable has a different go at reality. But the Internet has decommissioned Eng Lit distinctions and magic realism undermined metaphor in prose. When reality is virtual, image (as you discussed it at

school) is obsolete. Or the only thing. Hence the title, *Emergency Kit*.

As U.S. Fanthorpe confides, "Surviving is keeping your eyes open." When everything you see disorients (the condition of surrealism), all you can do is articulate the strangeness. The title poem invokes surreal survival "among a laughing tribe", via a laughter-box "whose button I press /to outlaugh them." These poems are ways of seeing when seeing changes, something to clutch as we free-fall from "This strange century /With its slaughter of the innocents /Its flight to the moon".

A key poem is Edwin Morgan's "Video Box". Someone does a jigsaw representing the sea (reality's most shifting physical thing) on TV: our talismanic artefact, that illusion-that-seems-truth. When he's finished, the ocean turns real a moment. But only on screen.

There are no separate sections. Subjects swim in and out like fish on a screen-saver.

Food, death. Animals, childhood. Sex. moonlanding. Anything that makes life worth thinking, as seen on TV. The poets' poems are separated, snuggling up to other people's so you see new linkings. Frost before Muldoon shows Muldoon's debt to Frost, but also something in Frost you hadn't twigged before. Juxtapositions are mischievous or tragic: Redgrave's "Visible Baby" ("heart like two squirrels, one scarlet, one purple") followed by Meehan's "Child Burial".

Bunting has the last word: Who says it's poetry anyhow? My ten year old

Can do it and rhyme... Many little words, nasty long words. It's unhealthy. I want to wash when I meet a poet... Go and find work. Which is exactly what poets imagine unbewildered, economically-viable writers think of them. *Emergency Kit* offers articulations of strangeness to the bewildered, to help with a disorienting world.

TWO HITS FROM

ff

MICHAEL DIBDIN

His latest Zen bestseller

COSI FAN TUTTI

"Dibdin is the master of new-wave thrillers."

Observer

Now available in paperback

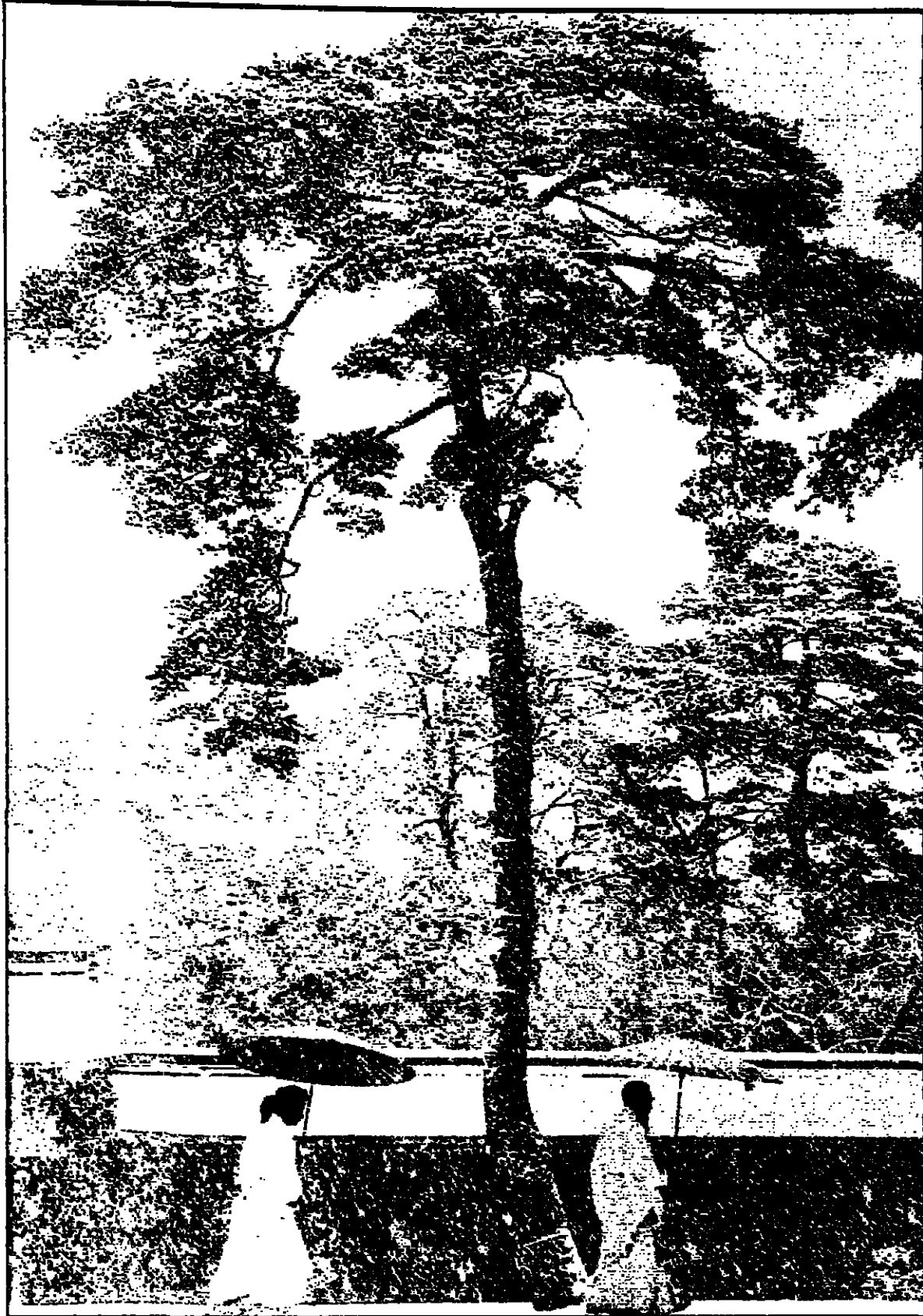
DARK SPECTRE

"Both a mesmerising thriller and a prolonged, intelligent meditation on the random nature of violence."

Independent on Sunday

Available in bookshops now!





The snow performs its secret ministry as two chilly Shinto priests, bearing flimsy paper parasols, wade across the inner courtyard of the Meiji Temple in Tokyo in 1952. Werner Bischof's magical picture is taken from 'So Many Worlds' by Dieter Bachmann and Daniel Schwartz (Thames & Hudson £40.00), a photographic record of the last half of the twentieth century. Harrowing pictures of children watching an air raid in London 1940, and a view over the ruins of Dresden in 1945 stand shoulder to shoulder with lighter subjects: two health ministry officials eyeing up the arts in Rio and a marvellous shot of James Joyce leaving a bookshop in Paris, 1938.

## Patchwork tales from the New World

E. Annie Proulx's characters perform like figures in a set-dance. **Clare Boylan** is intrigued but not drawn in

**Accordion Crimes** by E. Annie Proulx, Fourth Estate, £14.99

Cyril Connolly once said that the American language was in a state of flux based on the survival of the fittest. In her new novel E. Annie Proulx has made a savage comic poetry out of that bastard tongue, following the fortunes of the unfittest, from their arrival to their endurance or otherwise in the New World. Foul-mouthed, bawdy and heroic, her immigrants don't so much survive as get mashed into the great hamburger.

The characters are linked by a little green accordion, made by a poor Sicilian farmer. He dreams of a new life in La Merica, "fresh and unused... of money hanging in the future like pears hidden in high leaves." Instead he arrives in a New Orleans which Proulx paints as a fly-crawling, mosquito-ridden vision of hell: "A red moon crawled out of the east... a fetid stink of cesspools and burning sugar." Shunned, abused, conned and finally murdered by a racist mob, his instrument finds its way into the hands of a succession of immigrants for whom music is their only eloquence.

This is not so much a novel as an ingenious patchwork quilt, showing the American continent as the remnants of older, more ordered civilizations. From a distance it looks, as American novelist John O'Hara described it, "a country that has leaped from barbarism to decadence without

touching civilization." Proulx makes you look closely to see that the patchwork society is made up from jewel-bright scraps salvaged from close-knit and highly individualistic ethnic groups and shows that the butchered language and low level culture come from a need to adapt too quickly. Reviled by racists, the immigrants mask their identity and are in turn shunned by their own children who come to detest their alienating origins.

The novelist turns herself into a telescope, showing the immigrants first as miniaturised masses and then as memorable individuals. "Silvano was repulsed by the moil on the wharf. It was as though some great spatula had scraped through Italy and deposited this crust of humans on the edge of the oily harbour." Magnified, the various moils reveal a splendid range of eccentrics, from Mrs Malefoot, who kept "a bitterly clean house", to old Gertrude Beule who tried to revive her German husband's lust by presenting her bare rump across a potato barrel while singing "The Best Things in Life are Free", to the Frenchman who got into trouble for calling a man "un bougre du chien" and hitting him with a hen.

There are few love stories and fewer happy endings. Relationships are contingent, and birth and death accidental and often violent. Strange and wonderful fates befall

Proulx's characters. One man cuts off his own head with an electric saw. A bride dies by inhaling a piece of shrimp at her wedding. She mixes fact with fiction, insinuating that half of history is composed of legend and she teases the reader by sending up her own tall tales. Wasn't it Rawley Sharp, she asks, who fell into the hot spring at Yellowstone Park, "and despite eyes parboiled blind and the knowledge of impending death, clambered out - leaving the skin of his hands like red gloves on the stony ledge?" After which she adds, "You bet."

Magic realism is stirred up with stranger-than-fiction facts. There is Mrs Blush Lelaur, the French *travivore* who, as a child, saw her father try to set fire to her mother. "The child directed a savage thought at her father, that he become small and weak. That night her father began to shrink. The process was agonizingly slow, but in ten years he was the height of a child, withered and tiny, his arms like hollow stalks, and when he finally died he was no larger than a loaf of bread." In part a museum of Americana, the novel delights in possibly real-life characters like Howard Poplin, who toured America with his Atomic Power Trailer Church of Jesus, and later made his fortune designing a camper vehicle called The Conqueror, changing his name to Happy Jack.

Proulx writes a rollercoaster prose that is dense and chewy as a Christmas cake, alternating images of an earthly heaven with apocalyptic horrors and glimpses of a poignant and heroic humanity. You get the feeling that her astonishing energy comes from Hawthorne's Red Fox Urine, and Thanks a Million tonic, or at least from her delight in their labels.

This novel confirms Proulx as one of the great American writers - an American Dickens, lyrical, ironic, compassionate and courageous. So why did I get an urge to stop reading half way through? For all its brilliance the novel fails in its structure and becomes a series of aggravating *cul-de-sacs*. Proulx creates unforgettable characters and then barks "change your partners," like a set-dance compère. I still want to know what happened to poor little 12-year-old Silvano, orphaned son of the immigrant accordion maker, last seen as a stowaway in a stinking New Orleans fishing boat burning with hatred for all Sicilians and begging the skipper: "My name are Bob Joe. I work for you please."

Page by page this book is a stunner but it lacks a centre and makes you hanker after poor, lugubrious, gentle Quoyly Jr. The Shipping News, whose misfortunes were pursued at sufficient length for him to ponder, it may be that sometimes love occurs without pain or misery.

## Manning the barriers

Geoff Dyer says yo to a new writer from the Dominican Republic

**Drown** by Junot Diaz, Faber, £7.99

The epigraph, from Gustavo Perez Firmat, provides a blueprint of the foundations on which these resourceful, occasionally shaky fictional structures are built: "The fact that I am writing to you in English already falsifies what I wanted to tell you. My subject: how to explain to you that I don't belong to English though I belong to nowhere else."

Junot Diaz was born in the Dominican Republic and then moved to the States. His first book of loosely linked stories is about boys growing up in the *barrios* of Santo Domingo, and men struggling to make ends meet in New Jersey. On arrival in America one of Diaz's characters is "impressed with the transplanted Latinas, who had been transformed by good diets and beauty products unimagined back home"; likewise, few readers will be unimpressed by Diaz's version of transplanted - as opposed

to translated Spanish, flecked with and transformed by Hispanic *expresiones*.

A good proportion of the stories are narrated by the younger of two brothers whose father eventually emigrates to America, leaving them in a limbo of relief - no more beatings - loss and thwarted expectations. By adolescence, *los boys* - as Faber considered entitling the English edition before going with the American, *Drown* - are fending for themselves, stealing and dealing: "an ounce of weed for the big guy with the warts, some H for his coked-up girl, the one with the bloody left eye. Everybody's buying for the holiday weekend. Each time I put a bug in a hand I say, Pow, right there, my man."

A character in the story "Boyfriend" is derided for his cheap "Rico Suave routine" and while instantly alluring, this kind of linguistic riff en-

getic Barrio Hip - is less testing, less *exacting*, than passages patiently tracing the gestures which define the son's awkward, tender relations with his abandoned mother: "I pull out the plug of bills from my pockets. She takes it from me, her fingers soothing the creases. A man who treats his *plata* like this doesn't deserve to spend it, she says." Describing his friends, on another occasion, as looking "the colour of day-old piss" is actually piss-poor writing: "piss" on its own would be pretty unstartling, "day-old" makes it as stale as the cooling zephyrs of arcadia.

These are quibbles, really, for much of the language and many of the observations - "fake plants relaxed in each room" - are fresh and unforced. Especially in the last, longest and best story, "Negocios".

Hated, loved and feared by his son, appealed to as a standard of lapsed morality, the absent father gets this story to

himself. By ending the book like this Diaz makes good another absence. The earlier pieces deployed themselves obliquely, seemed always to be approaching some definitive irresolution. Whereas in this story, which focuses unflinchingly on the figure who was not around when he was needed - and who, in "Fiesta 1980", did not like his son to look him "in the eye" while he was giving him a whupping - we move, finally, into the subtlety of thoroughly achieved narrative. This is it, the defining tale, of migration, struggle, exploitation and partial assimilation which, as it were, accounts for all the others. The story of the father's difficult transition to a larger, more challenging world is also, appropriately, a demonstration of how the writerly skill and promise displayed earlier in the book are already giving way to the sustained ambitions of the mature novelist-to-be.

## Soap opera with cd attached

E. Jane Dickson deplores a multi-media marketing event

**The Law of Love** by Laura Esquivel, Chatto, £15.99

In the future, when the Net Book Agreement is as quaint and remote as the Corn Laws, all books will be like *The Law of Love*. The Latin American writer Laura Esquivel hit pay-dirt in 1990 with *Like Water for Chocolate*, (now a major feature film) and is taking no chances with this latest venture. *The Law of Love* is not so much a novel as a multi-media marketing event. The heart-sinking combination of science fiction and magic realism is further enlivened with great wedges of cod philosophy and emetic sex. And for that untapped sector of the reading public who find traditional novels rebarbatively bookish, there are pictures to look at and music to listen to. (A CD of the book's "soundtrack" is tucked into the dustjacket.)

The theme of the novel is the perfection or the human soul through reincarnation. Our plucky heroine Azucena is an astroanalyst, a term which

is left to the luckless blurb writer to explain as "a sort of highly evolved psychotherapist who ministers to the karmically challenged using music to reacquaint her patients with their past lives." Azucena is so highly evolved that she has no need of character definition, motive or believable speech patterns.

Indeed the entire novel has the ring of a Latin American soap opera dubbed into English in a Hong Kong basement. "Come on," rails Azucena at a less evolved minion, "You must think I'm some sort of idiot, right?"

To be fair, Azucena has had a tough old time of it, pursuing her "twin soul" Rodrigo from 23rd century Mexico City to the ancient empire of Montezuma. Her picaresque passage through time and space is so dizzyingly complicated that Esquivel thoughtfully provides regular updates. "She couldn't take any more," we are told, at

an especially bewildering juncture. "She had received too many blows in too short a time. She had lost her twin soul, had been on the verge of being murdered [by a power crazed politician posing as the reincarnated Mother Teresa], had been forced to undergo a soul transplant, had discovered the murder of a close friend, had witnessed her beloved body occupied by an assassin, and finally, had found Rodrigo in a place that was for all practical purposes out of reach."

What is a girl to do? Fortunately, Azucena's Guardian Angel, Anacreonte is on hand with goblets of New Age wisdom. "Hatred" he points out, "is forever hunting down a refuge, poking its nose where it shouldn't, taking over sites reserved for others, invariably forcing out love. And Nature, which unlike the Gods, insists upon order, to the point of neurosis, you might say, feels the need to go into the act."

And so it goes on, page after page of incontinent and impenetrable claptrap. You are almost grateful for the storyboard cartoons by "Spain's premier graphic artist, 'Miguelanxo Prado'" and the musical interludes (mushy recordings of Puccini and traditional *dantones*). Yet, can't help feeling, however, that Chatto and Windus have spoilt the ship for a hap'orth of tar. Why not follow through with a scratch 'n sniff panel (Esquivel has a particularly joyless obsession with farts) or maybe a vacuum wrapped *enchilada* and ready mixed margaritas? But this is a counsel of perfection. Not so long ago, writers would put themselves and their readers through the slog of conjuring sensory perception from the printed page. With this easy-to-use, book-style entertainment package, Esquivel has put an end to brain-engagement misery for ever.

## Paperbacks

By Christopher Hirst and Emma Hagestadt

**The Irish Male at Home and Abroad** by Joseph O'Connor (Minerva, £6.99) According to Joseph O'Connor Irish males are "wet-arsed", non-communicative, drunken "cejlts". Nothing new here, and not much new to be found in this collection of journalism swiped from O'Connor's regular column in Ireland's *Sunday Tribune* along with articles from the pages of *Cosmo* and *Elle*. Thoughts on flammable condoms ("a reusable alternative to chewing gum"), a trip to Nice (not "nice"), and the post-coital delights of curry chips are served up alongside more serious reflections on "New Man" and the state of Lord

Archer's bathrooms - nice fittings, no hog rolls.

**Lifting the Taboo, Women, Death and Dying** by Sally Cline (Abacus, £7.99) "There is no assurance that you will live to read the whole of this book." Not a comforting opening thought, and not a comforting book. Sally Cline's exploration of the sexual politics of death throws up some interesting ideas about women's relationship with the Grim Reaper. More likely to meet the end with a sense of commitments unfulfilled, women worry as much about being buried alive, as who will cook their hubby's dinner after they've gone.

Useful advice on dying at home, and insights from female undertakers you'll wish you'd rather not read.

**G, a Novel** by John Berger (Bloomsbury, £6.99) Winner of the 1972 Booker Prize, John Berger's once-trendy novel is a lot more entertaining than some of his more recent ones. Set against an operatic background of *risorgimento* Italy and country-house England, it tells the story of G, the illegitimate son of a candied-fruit merchant and his early introduction to the sins of the flesh. Seemingly profound pronouncements on sex, love and death nestle around Berger's sensuous set pieces like the

wrappers around a Baci chocolate. Turn of the century melodrama for Seventies hipsters.

**Morality Play** by Barry Unsworth (Penguin, £5.99) Set in the depths of plague-ridden Yorkshire, Unsworth's medieval whodunit tells the story of Nicholas Barber, a lustful young cleric who abandons his calling to join a group of travelling players and once more smell the "budding hawthorn". A decision he never regrets, especially after he and the players help solve a murder and save a woman's life. With its cast of slatternly wenches and snooping monks, this is about as entertaining as your average Father Cadwael mystery.

**Primary Colors** by Anonymous (Vintage, £6.99) It doesn't take long to realise why this foul-mouthed, but probably

word-perfect, fictional take on the Clintons and their entourage rocketed to the top of the bestsellers. On page 16, we are given a character analysis of the central figure: "Jack Stanton could be a great man, if he wasn't such a faithless, thoughtless, disorganised, undisciplined shit. And that's his wife talking. An acid comedy of modern political manners, which will still be read when the Clinton administration is a distant memory."

**The Habsburgs** by Andrew Wheatcroft (Penguin, £8.99) A thrilling panoramic history - though rather old-fashioned in being more concerned with personality and "the mystical power of lineage" than the cold facts of economy. Wheatcroft unspools his vivid diorama of Europe's greatest dynasty from early luminaries such as Frederick the Fat (he died from a surfeit of

melons) through the lonely, belligerent Philip II of Spain and ill-fated Maximilian of Mexico, to the last remnants of the line, who lead "respectable, boring lives", hoping to be called back to rule.

**The Periodic Kingdom** by Peter Atkins (Phoenix, £5.99) This surprisingly readable account of the building blocks of the universe utilises the metaphor of a travel guide. With the help of Atkins' lively sales patter, the "glittering, lustrous" desert of metals becomes a tempting destination. The names are particularly interesting: Atkins notes that "bromine" and "argon" derive from Greek words for "stench" and "lazy". He points out that helium, which makes up 25 per cent of the universe, was only found in 1868 and then on the sun. Also, it's not profitable to go prospecting

for francium - only 17 atoms of it exist on earth.

**The Race Gallery** by Marek Kohn (Vintage, £7.99) Boasting a collection of 25,000 skeletons, a Race Gallery actually exists in Vienna's Natural History Museum. Kohn uses this poignant display of human differences as a starting point for an exploration of our muddled thinking on the peculiarly sensitive issue of race. While he effectively scuppers the views of modern hereditarians - in particular, *The Bell Curve* - for their mangling of recent genetic findings, he insists that race can no longer remain a no-go area for mainstream science. In reaching this radical conclusion, he has produced a vital work of scientific commentary.

**On Being Jewish** by Julia Neuberger (Mandarin, £6.99) This book's solest:

tone is set on the first page, when the author gives her reason for writing it: "There is no book... by me on the subject." So, while we learn much about Judaism, we're told even more about Neuberger. Often this combination is fascinating, as when a Boston pharmacist recognises the name on her credit card because her grandmother was active among Jewish refugees in England. But for a greater insight into the astonishing richness of Britain's Jewish community, readers should seek out Stephen Brooks' *The Club*.

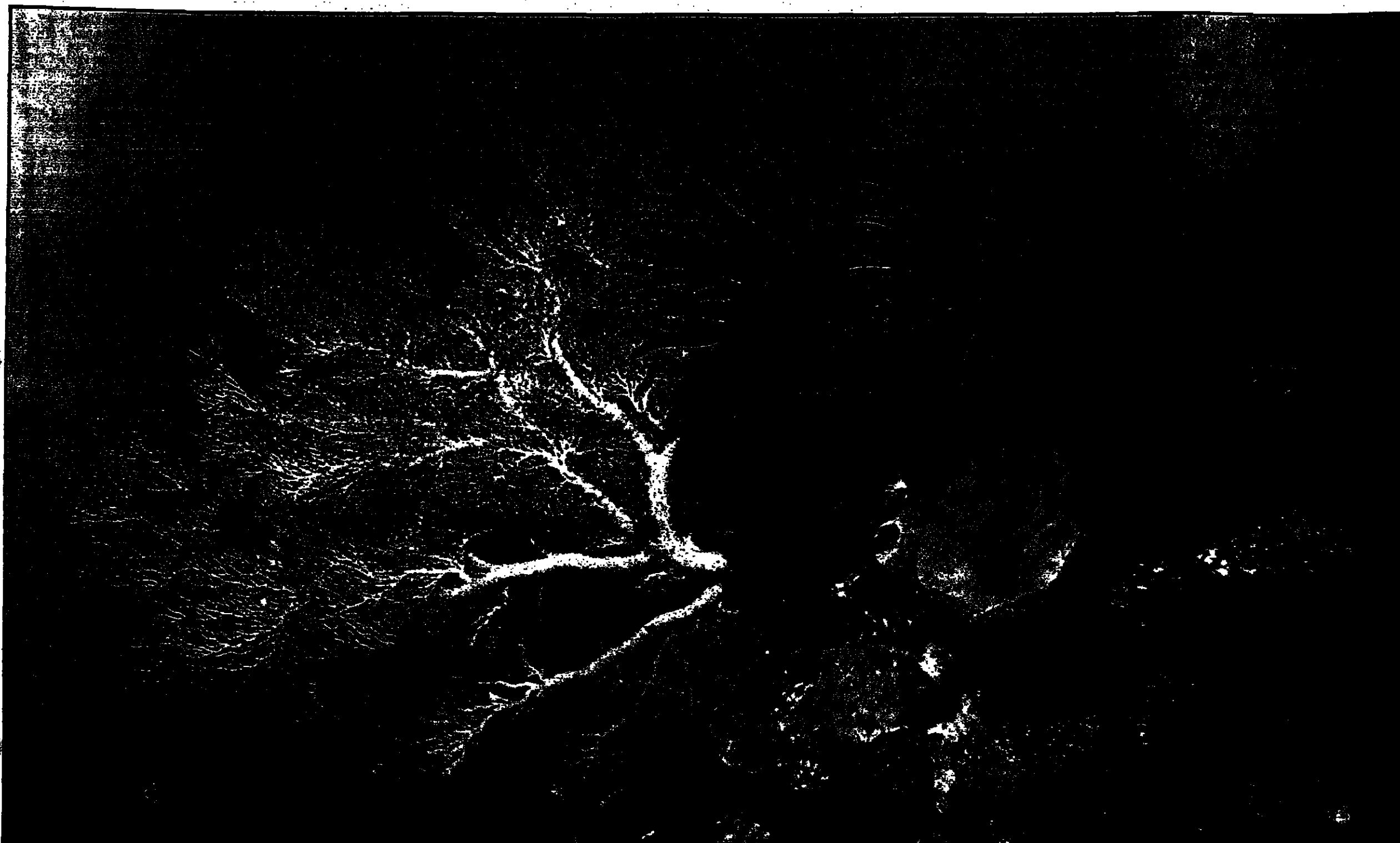
**NEW AUTHORS**  
PUBLISH YOUR WORK  
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED  
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Religion,  
Poetry, Children's  
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE WANTED  
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO  
MINERVA PRESS  
2 OLD BROMPTON RD. LONDON SW8 5SD

JOHN COLEMAN



# travel & outdoors

Britain ..... 12  
Competition 13  
Skiing.... 14/15  
Gardening... 17  
Country..... 18



PHOTOGRAPH: PLANET EARTH

## A swim in the quiet storm

Harriet O'Brien dives through turbulence into the calm of Indonesia's coral reefs

It was like being in the rinse cycle of a washing machine. Forty feet under water, we swam round a bend of the great wall of coral and suddenly collided with a powerful whoosh of current. Under such circumstances there's little you can do but go with the flow. And observe how the locals are coping. The bigger fish had been able to fight their way through to stiller, lower depths but the smaller fry, forced to abandon their snacking ground, were swept along with us, little dorsal fins quivering in the sea gale. It was gratifying to feel that we were all in this together. A few minutes later the tumbled gang—assorted angelfish, fusiliers, mini wrasses and scuba divers—had managed to twist free of the water force, no harm done.

In calmer quarters, we all resumed our varied activities: the fish got down to the serious business of nibbling on passing plankton and browsing through soft coral, the divers carried on gliding through the now serene seascape, hedonists on an aquatic sightseeing tour. There's no sense of "been there, done that" with scuba diving. It's always an adventure. You get a buzz from the fact that this is a potentially hazardous sport, from the sense of magic as you sink into a gloriously alien world of sublimely coloured plants and fish—and from the challenge of being caught in a strong current.

The adventure is perhaps all the greater in Indonesia, where the trail for coral and fish also

leads you to remote regions—volcanic landscapes of lush beauty, deserted tropical islands, people of appealingly different customs and cultures. This vast archipelago stretches further than the distance from London to Moscow and contains about a sixth of the world's coral reefs. The fragile underwater environment here is relatively unexplored and unvisited: it's barely 10 years since the first commercial dive operations were started in the area.

There are, however, some disadvantages to this—facilities tend to be basic and safety standards alarmingly relaxed. One of the best and safest places for coral gazing is off the top of Sulawesi, north-east of Java. In terms of land-mass, the island is the size of England and Scotland, although its bizarre shape makes it seem bigger: on the map, Sulawesi looks a bit like a slouching starfish. Manado, a bustling little coastal town on the extreme edge of the upper arm, is just a short boat trip away from an area of spectacular sea scenery. As yet, only a few dive companies operate here. The outfit I signed up with promised "fully trained guides, not just somebody who knows how to blow bubbles", a reassurance with worrying undertones.

But, sudden currents aside, it turned out that there wasn't much cause for anxiety as the group of novice Indonesian divers I joined was patiently shepherded through the deep. We spent four days, in perfect conditions, exploring the crystal-clear waters around the volcanic

islet of Bunaken. Here, a stunning wall of coral drops sheer down, looking as if it falls into an infinity of blue.

Quite apart from such panoramic drama, the attraction of going to the wall lies in the enormously rich variety of marine life it supports: beds of soft sea anemones, great barrel organs of sponges, battalions of barracuda, horizontal trumpet fish, fleets of black triggerfish, and more. If you're lucky you might catch sight of sinister-looking moray eels, tiny seahorses and inflated pufferfish hoping they've swelled themselves so big as to be inedible.

Kitted up with weight belt and scuba tank you feel as ungainly as an overfed elephant as you prepare to plunge into the water to meet these creatures. It seems a minor miracle of physics that once you start your descent you acquire a weightlessness in defiance of these encumbrances.

Agility and grace are rather more difficult to achieve. Yet as you clumsily bubble into the watery world, the schools of little reef fish you pass look remarkably unstartled. Unlike animals on land, many of the small underwater species do not beat a hasty retreat at the sight of a human. They simply hang around like suspended

confetti—presumably they have the second sense to know that you're a cumbersome oddity rather than a predator.

This is rarely the case with larger sea life. A shy turtle, scarping into the salty distance, was the first creature I saw as I plummeted into the Bunaken underworld (judging by the amount of tortoiseshell you can still find for sale in Indonesia, perhaps it had good reason to be nervous). At a depth of about 70ft, a massive couple of spotted eagle stingray lolloped swiftly away from us, looking rather like marine UFOs.

A little later we peered down on a prowling reef shark which sped out of sight once it became aware of our presence. We were lucky.

*Continued on page 10*



### Sulawesi with a scuba tank

**How to get there:** Although Manado has an international airport, there are no direct flights from the UK. The most convenient route is via Jakarta or Bali. Harriet O'Brien flew to Jakarta with Qantas; the return trip cost £586 through Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322). The Indonesian airline Garuda International (0171-486 3011) is currently offering an airpass around the archipelago for £243. This lasts 60 days and allows you a maximum number of seven flights. British visitors to Indonesia do not require visas.

**When to go:** Diving conditions are best in Sulawesi between April and October. The rainy season generally starts in November, when visibility becomes poor and access to the reefs around Bunaken difficult.

**Whom to trust:** Harriet O'Brien paid £40 for two dives per day organised by the Barracuda Diving Resort at Molas, Manado (tel 00 62 43154288, although communication is better by fax on 00 62 43164848). The price includes boat trips, lunch, hire of weight belt and professional guidance. Diving in Indonesia is in its infancy and not all operators offer qualified instruction or adequate equipment for hire. If possible take your own wet suit and regulator.

**Where to stay:** The Barracuda Diving Resort has comfortable accommodation: an all-in package for room (without air conditioning) and two dives per day costs from £50. Other hotels in Manado include the Hotel New Queen (00 62 431 65979) which charges from £10 a night.

**What to read:** *Underwater Indonesia* is published by Periplus, price £9.95

MasterCard

EUROSTAR

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FANTASTIC PROMOTION  
AND TRAVEL TO THE HEART OF PARIS OR BRUSSELS

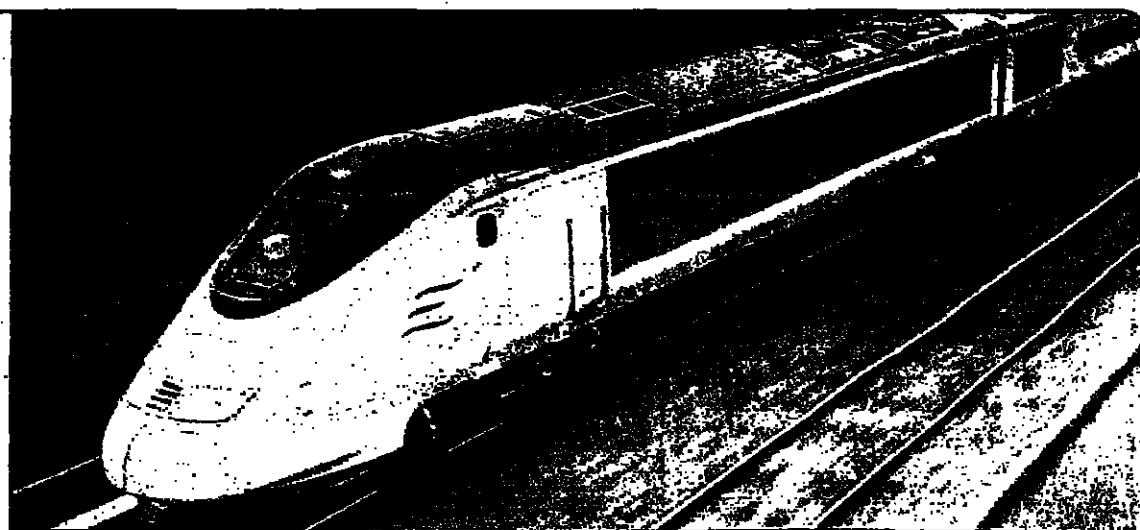
BUY ONE EUROSTAR STANDARD EXCURSION RETURN TICKET FOR £99

AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THE SECOND TICKET **FREE**

IF YOU PAY BY MasterCard

TO BOOK SIMPLY CALL 0345 023832 QUOTING REFERENCE MAST. PHONE LINES OPEN 09.00AM UNTIL 17.00PM DAILY

EUROSTAR SPEAKS MasterCard - EVERY LANGUAGE SPEAKS MasterCard



1. The applicant must be aged 18 or over and is entitled to two standard class return tickets for departure from Waterloo International or Ashford International to Paris or Brussels at £99 for two. These "2 for 1" fares only apply when booked in the UK and when two people travel together on both the outward and return journeys. 2. European Passenger Services Ltd. will only accept payment by MasterCard for this promotion. 3. Bookings can be made until 31st December 1996 and all outbound and return journeys must be completed by 31st December 1996. 4. Availability of these special "2 for 1" promotional fares is limited for each train. 5. Promotional MasterCard International, c/o Europe, 5 Dromedary Square, London EC2H 4YD. 6. The full terms and conditions which apply to this offer can be obtained by writing to The Promotions Department, Eurostar UK Ltd, Eurostar House, Waterloo Station, London SE1 8SE





Tel: 0171 293 2222

## travel • overseas

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

(incl. taxes)	one way	return	one way	return	one way	return		
SYDNEY	£347	£505	NEW YORK	£115	£175	JOHANNESBURG	£263	£385
PERTH	£329	£507	BOSTON	£129	£189	CAPE TOWN	£289	£404
AUCKLAND	£354	£532	FLORIDA	£159	£235	HARARE	£319	£511
BANGKOK	£198	£385	LOS ANGELES	£217	£269	NAROI	£215	£329
HONG KONG	£275	£441	SAN FRANCISCO	£158	£255	DUBAI	£187	£274
SINGAPORE	£298	£485	DENVER	£206	£299	CAIRO	£122	£204
BAU	£327	£485	TOKYO	£138	£189	AMSTERDAM	£55	£99
SAIGON	£275	£485	CARIBBEAN	£175	£225	GENOVA	£119	£199
TOKYO	£275	£485	MEXICO CITY	£252	£329	EMBASSY TO PARIS	£15	£25
DELHI	£204	£329	MANILA	£253	£439	AROUND THE WORLD	£582	

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £51 • AFRICA £37 • PACIFIC £42 • ASIA £38

USA CAR HIRE FROM £13 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR WORLD OR NORTH AMERICA DIRECTORY ON 0171-938 3939

## TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Virgin Atlantic's Top Agent  
for the third consecutive year

Call now for great deals to USA, South Africa & Asia

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • BUSINESS TRAVEL

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop.

Trailfinders offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 65% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3939 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 LISA ABTA 00701

194 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 7HG  
Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3939  
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

215 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 6BD  
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

42-50 Ears Court Road • LONDON W6 6FT  
Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3366

22-24 The Priory Queensway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS  
Worldwide Flights: 0121-236 1234

48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HQ  
Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9000

254-284 Sauchiehall Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH  
Worldwide Flights: 0141-353 2224

58 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2FF  
Worldwide Flights: 0161-839 6969  
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards

... people think the world of us!

JETLINE  
Discounted fares to all destinations  
SPAIN £45 USA £69  
PORTUGAL £45 CANADA £69  
ITALY £45 JAPAN £69  
GREECE £45 AUSTRALIA £69  
JERSEY £45 NEW ZEALAND £69  
CHINA £45 SOUTH AFRICA £69  
INDONESIA £45 HONG KONG £69  
SINGAPORE £45 TAIWAN £69  
MALAYSIA £45 THAILAND £69  
PHILIPPINES £45  
0171 340 1111

Paris, Brussels  
Flights from £146  
0171 610 9479

VICEROY TRAVEL  
0171 419 1919

LOW COST FLIGHTS  
USA CANADA AUSTRALIA  
NEW ZEALAND SOUTH AMERICA  
CARIBBEAN FAR EAST  
MIDDLE EAST AFRICA  
TRIPWY  
0171 490 1490

BOOK DIRECT WITH  
HOTELS DIRECT  
50% OFF  
01865 48 4144

★ STA TRAVEL ★  
WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris	London	Amsterdam	Frankfurt	Athens	Prague	Rome	Madrid	Barcelona	Nice	Lyon	Munich	Zurich	Geneva	Basel	Brussels	Amsterdam	Frankfurt	Athens	Prague	Rome	Madrid	Barcelona	Nice	Lyon	Munich	Zurich	Geneva	Basel	Brussels
£68	£57	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56	£56

ROUND THE WORLD FROM £582

VIRGIN ATLANTIC SPECIALS

EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262, 0161 834 0668 (Manchester)

ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160

117 Euston Road NW1, 86 Old Broad Street NW1, 11 Gough Square EC4A

STA TRAVEL INFORMATION REQUEST LINE: 0171 361 6160

LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, BRISTOL, BRIGHTON ... STA TRAVEL

AMERICAN & LATIN TRAVEL

From	From	From	From
CALIFORNIA £259	BUENOS AIRES £550	ORLANDO £259	CARACAS £350
WASHINGTON £199	MEXICO CITY £400	NEW YORK £199	RIO £465
BOSTON £199	SAO PAULO £490		

LOWEST PRICES QUOTED TAXES TO BE ADDED

Tel: 0181 673 8888  
Fax: 0181 675 3777

QUEST WORLDWIDE

From	From	From	From
SYDNEY £495	DELHI £329	NEW ZEALAND £699	
PERTH £495	HONG KONG £429		
AUCKLAND £495	BANGKOK £359		
MANILA £495	SINGAPORE £445		
HARARE £495	LANCERES £399		
JOHANNESBURG £495	NEW YORK £399		
DUBAI £495	TORONTO £345		

SPECIAL: BUSINESS CLASS  
0171 541 5411

TECNO TRAVEL

From	From	From	From
NEW YORK £210	BANGKOK £400	LOS ANGELES £280	TORONTO £240
HONG KONG £400	DELHI £400	SINGAPORE £400	MADRID £400

For friendly, efficient service call  
0171 482 0414

01476 541111

From	From	From	From
Algeria £259	Geneva £259	Paris £259	Brussels £259
Amsterdam £259	Frankfurt £259	Athens £259	Prague £259
Rome £259	Madrid £259	Barcelona £259	Nice £259
Lyon £259	Munich £259	Zurich £259	Geneva £259
Basel £259	Brussels £259	Amsterdam £259	Frankfurt £259
Athens £259	Prague £259	Rome £259	Madrid £259
Barcelona £259	Nice £259	Lyon £259	Munich £259
Zurich £259	Geneva £259	Basel £259	Brussels £259

easyJet  
means Business  
Call 0990 29 29 29 anytime

Regency  
Flights  
01273 273 273

Travel Services

City Breaks

Paris & Brussels in a flash by EUROSTAR

Edinburgh  
FROM  
£58  
RTN

You'd have to look hard to find a smaller fare.

From	From	From	From
AMSTERDAM from £79 return	BELFAST from £59 return	BERGEN from £145 return	BRUSSELS from £85 return
DUBLIN from £72 return	FRANKFURT from £119 return	GLASGOW from £58 return	LEEDS BRADFORD from £77 return
NICE from £149 return	PALMA from £169 return	PARIS from £79 return	PRAGUE from £149 return
TEESSIDE from £88 return	ZURICH from £99 return		

Return fares from London Heathrow.  
Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345 554554 OR  
0345 1 FLY BM

British Midland  
The Airline for Europe

Special fares available on selected dates and flights.  
Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay.  
Passenger taxes will apply. Special fares are also available from East Midlands, Leeds Bradford, Teesside, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast.

USA & CANADA  
East Coast Glory

The Complete Escorted Tour Experience With Our VIP Local Departure Service Offered Free From Over 1100 UK Points On All Dates!  
Now booking through October 1996 to October 1997.

Land of the maple, mountain ash, red oak and scarlet sassafras, among many other wonderful trees and flowering plants; of abundant wildlife and moose-inhabited forests; North America's Eastern Region is a glory largely undiscovered by the casual visitor. That's unrivalled 20 years' experience of organising tours to the region takes our clients into the beguiling byways to out-of-the-way villages and true gems of American rural life. Naturally the 'big name' attractions are included in our tours, from Niagara to Boston, but our more leisurely pace and routings provide an entirely different quality experience. And you can be sure that when we visit New York city you will stay at a hotel in midtown Manhattan, where the big attractions, such as Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Centre, Central Park, Times Square, Grand Central Station and Radio City Music Hall are all literally within strolling distance. The difference is the detail - never more evident than in the East, when we invite you to visit America's 'secret garden'.

EASTERN EXTRAVAGANZA 15 days from £985*	EASTERN PANORAMA 14 days from £1075*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay in three of Canada's most fascinating cities - Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.</li> <li>In Niagara experience the wonder of the Falls.</li> <li>Stay in New York, enjoy a city tour and take your own tales of the Big Apple.</li> <li>Discover the elegance of Boston, Philadelphia and Washington.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discover old Quebec, Boston with a city tour and a simple trip to the White Mountains.</li> <li>Joining back in time in historic Concord and the traditional Salem Witch Trials for a holiday.</li> <li>Travel through New England's white mountains and cruise across Lake Winnebago.</li> <li>Stay at the fine Le Character hotel in the beautiful Leinster Mountains.</li> <li>Visit the region's towns, villages and high spring &amp; fall colours.</li> <li>Explore the Canadian coastline with a chance to see whales or close quarters on an included coach cruise.</li> </ul>
NEW ENGLAND HIGHLIGHTS 10 days from £875*	CHARM OF NEW ENGLAND 10 days from £845*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breathtaking journeys through Green Mountains National Forest and the traditional surroundings of 19th century Woodstock.</li> <li>Two night stay in fabulous New York to enjoy all the 'Big Apple' has to offer.</li> <li>Explore Newport with its millionaires' mansions and Stricklands with its famous Red Lion Inn.</li> <li>Exploration of Harvard University's delightful location at Cambridge.</li> <li>Tour of Boston with time to make your own discoveries.</li> <li>Included visits and adventures to the romantic waterfront recreation of Mystic Seaport and Stricklands' 18th century working village community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stroll through the farming community of Stricklands, a living museum where traditional costumes are still worn, food prepared the old way and sheep still on the grass.</li> <li>Stay in Boston &amp; discover the Freedom Trail.</li> <li>Visit Deerfield where buildings have been preserved and lived in since the 18th century.</li> <li>Thrilling steam train ride alongside the wondrous Connecticut river.</li> <li>Discover the charm of the Eastern Connecticut, the rich beauty of Vermont and the leafy lanes of Massachusetts.</li> <li>Relax in the cafes and bars of Newport, Rhode Island, one of the world's most fashionable yachting centres.</li> </ul>
MAPLE LEAF TRAIL PLUS NIAGARA FALLS - 11 days from £945*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the trail of the greatest concentration of Maple Groves in North America.</li> <li>Exploration of the Eastern Townships including North Hatley, Megantic, Asbestos, Beloeil, Riverview and the lovely lakeside villages of Lake Megantic.</li> <li>Two nights in a luxurious central Toronto hotel with a visit to Niagara Falls.</li> <li>Time to explore the charming environs of Quebec City with its old walls and fascinating jumble of cobblestone streets and leafy squares.</li> <li>Away from it all stay in the Leinster at the beautiful resort of Leinster House.</li> <li>Joining along the stunning Canadian coastline with an included whale watching cruise in the St. Lawrence River.</li> </ul>	

Our Service Makes a World of Difference!

RELAX FROM THE START WITH OUR UNIQUE FREE VIP LOCAL DEPARTURE SERVICE. Enjoy the luxury of our highly trained uniformed chauffeurs driving to your departure airport in our supermodern coaches. Because they meet a minimum of eight passengers in air-conditioned comfort, your direct route involves a minimum of stops. You can sit back, your luggage taken care of, and start to enjoy your holiday knowing the Than team of airport staff will be there to greet you.

OR CHOOSE OUR SHUTTLE SERVICE. As an alternative to our local departure service we are pleased to be able to offer connecting flights from Jersey, Guernsey, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness, Newcastle, Plymouth, Newquay & Manchester.

OUR AIRPORT SERVICE - Our airport staff are at the London airports to meet with all check-in arrangements and direct you to Than transport on your return. We usually have our own check-in desk for maximum speed and efficiency.

TOP SCHEDULED AIRLINES - We use only scheduled flights with the world's leading airlines.

OUR HOTELS - Among the best for location & comfort.

OUR TOUR MANAGERS - Friendly, informative and on call 24 hours a day for your complete peace of mind.

OUR COACHES - Comfortable air conditioned coaches throughout.

OUR ITINERARIES - Created by us with British taste in mind (no multi-lingual commentaries) including in the price all major attractions and sightseeing tours.

01737 760033

Please send information on the following tours (Please tick)

Eastern Extravaganza ☐ Eastern Panorama ☐ New England Highlights ☐ Maple Leaf Trail ☐

Charm of New England ☐ Australasia ☐ South Africa ☐ Year of Travel - 1996 ☐ 1997 ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Titan Travel Ltd., Hitours House, 28-30 Holmehorpe Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2HL

RAMBLERS 1997 = REAL HOLIDAYS

The brochure you have been waiting for is here!

140 REAL HOLIDAYS - the most mouthwatering selection of holidays imaginable spanning the world. Walking, easy to tough choices in Norway, the Alps, Dolomites, Pyrenees, Spain, Slovenia, France, Italy, Czech, Poland, Portugal and lots more; outside Europe too. Treks in Nepal and the Alps. Tough vacations like trips in Austria, Great Britain, exploring holidays, walking and sightseeing throughout Europe, Middle and Far East, S. Africa, N & S America, New Zealand and Australia. A huge choice of REAL holidays. All small escorted parties, tourist class accommodation. Mostly scheduled flights; some holidays to France and Ireland by coach ... and all backed by 30 years of experience. Please request a brochure.

Ramblers Holidays  
Box 43, Welwyn Garden, AL8 6PQ  
Tel: 01707 331153 Fax: 01707 333276  
E-mail: ramblers@btinternet.com

PARIS  
AMSTERDAM  
BRUSSELS  
MIDWINTER OFFER FROM  
£32  
RETURN

Daily services from London.  
Midweek offers available from Wed. & Fri.  
Special weekend offers.

0990 143210  
sunlines

RED SEA  
UK's Nearest Coral Sea  
October School Breaks

0181 744 0474

Canaries

Corsica

Germany

THE INDEPENDENT recommends  
Pura Vita also houses in holiday  
villages & empty beaches. October  
week. 0181 7700078. ATOL 2767.

GRECOFILE FLORENCE Escape  
paradise. Historic, lively, friendly  
& associated local bars. Pigeon  
Tavern. 0181 425 2505. ATOL 2877.

THE INDEPENDENT  
Newspaper Publishing plc  
regrets that although every  
reasonable precaution is taken,  
no responsibility can be  
accepted for flights and/or  
accommodation offered  
through these columns, or any  
loss arising therefrom. Readers  
are advised to take all  
necessary precautions before  
entering into any travel  
arrangements.

# A tour of hot chocolate

Lorna and Zoe Downing indulge in Cadbury World

The saying goes that when there's rain in the air you can smell the chocolate wafting through the factory air vents on your approach to Cadbury World. So if you're heading for this chocolate emporium at Bourville, outside Birmingham, try to time your visit to coincide with a couple of black clouds.

Resist the temptation of hitting the Cadbury Trail first, with its free samples and potted history. Instead, take a tour along the Factory Trail which winds through imposing Victorian factory buildings. By the time you pass go for the Cadbury Trail you will have worked up an appetite for your first free sample.

The give-away goodies are generous – and there's no point in taking your diet with you, or your bang-ups about acne. You are expected to have too much of a good thing here.

The chocolate experience is not all edible. It's educational, too. The Cadbury Trail unravels the story behind the history of chocolate and the start of Cadbury's. Meanwhile, the factory packaging plant gives you a taste of what is involved in the production of Cadbury's chocolate and the demonstration area allows you to watch handmade chocolate being decorated.

Frankly, it is disappointing not to see rows and rows of factory workers supervising the 66,000 creme eggs which Cadbury produces every hour, but the days when you could take all your relatives, head-lice and all, around the factory floor ended in 1970 when new health-and-safety legislation was introduced. You just have to make do with imagining the eggs flying out of the machine at 50mph.

## The visitors

Lorna Downing, an office manager from Berkshire, took her 10-year-old daughter, Zoe, and young friend Tom to Cadbury World.

Zoe: I'm not a great chocolate fan so I didn't have any trouble stopping myself from eating it all the time. My friend Tom, who came with us, ate loads of it, though. By the time we were three quarters of the way around he looked quite green around the gills. It was nice, though, to be given such a hoard of free chocolate. It means I can either eat it gradually or share it with my friends.

I don't think this is the sort of place to come to if you're worried about your figure. But there's lots to see, and loads of information about chocolate. You get to try some of the original chocolate drink which they made in the rainforests. It had chilli in it and was pretty disgusting. Nothing like the chocolate we eat today.



Zoe Downing finds chocolate heaven

I enjoyed watching the handmade chocolate being decorated. It looked really good fun. The Cadbury Fantasy Factory was good, too, especially for small children, and there's an amazing hall of mirrors where you are completely surrounded by changing images of chocolate.

I think it's a good place to take schoolchildren as it's so well laid out and interesting, and the history of chocolate is very well explained.

Lorna: I've always been a bit of a chocaholic – but I'd never realised how fascinating a history it had. The Cadbury Trail takes you right from the beginnings of chocolate in the Central American rainforests, where the Maya Indians first harvested the cocoa beans, through to the mass production of chocolate bars and the creation of commercials

such as the Cadbury Milk Tray advert.

It gives a really good succinct history of the Cadbury brothers, who were a Quaker family with a philanthropic approach to the commercial world.

It goes without saying that the actual chocolate experience of Cadbury World was great. The temptation of freshly tapped chocolate that is only 20 minutes old was too much. I ate it straight away.

## The deal

Location: Cadbury World is at Bourville Birmingham, junction 2 off the M42, junctions 2 and 4 off the M5 and junction 6 off the M6 (0121-451 4159). Price: adults, £5; children, £3.45; under 5s, free; senior citizens, £4.35 (Mon-Fri only); family tick-

£14.50 (two adults and two children) or £17.50 (two adults and three children).

Opening times: 10am-5.30pm. Open daily throughout October, and at weekends and selected weekdays throughout November and December.

Facilities: free parking; picnic and play area; disabled access except in packaging plant; push-chair access except in production areas. Toilets positioned in reception area and half way around the Cadbury Trail. Restaurant. "Quite pricey and limited selection," said Lorna. "We paid £6.60 for fish and chips, a meat pie and one child's drink."

Shop: Plenty of souvenirs plus a bargain corner. Note: The packaging plant cannot be guaranteed to be working at all times.

Nicola Swanborough

## Are we nearly there?

A weekly round-up of outings for children

## Sweets

Parents hoping to keep children away from chocolate are setting themselves an almost impossible task. They might as well enjoy their defeat by exploring the enemy strongholds and taking a tour round some of the sights where the goodies are manufactured.

Rowlands Confectionary, 17 Old High Street, Folkestone, Kent (01303-254723). Situated on the same old cobbled street – between the harbour and town centre – since the 1920s, the premises consist of a shop and also an area where you can watch work in process. Entrance free. Shop open 9am-5pm daily – but no sweet-making on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Pontefract Museum, Salter Row, Pontefract, W. Yorks (01977-722740). That's Pontefract with a capital "P", as in the town of that name; but the museum includes a section on pontefract with a small "p", as in the sweet. The liquorice plant from which pontefract is made seems to have been brought back from the Middle East during the Crusades. It has been grown, and used for sweets, in the town for centuries. John Benjeman wrote a poem beginning, "In the licorice fields of Pontefract, My love and I did meet". Entrance to museum free. Open daily 10.30am-5pm, Sundays 2.30-5pm.

Chocolate House, 1 Glenfield Park, Philips Road, Blackburn, Lancs (01254-581019). There are demonstrations here – by appointment – of the noble art of making chocolate products by hand. Chocolates, truffles, dinosaurs, bears, Santas, caramels and three types of fudge: it sounds like a modernised version of the fairy-tale Gingerbread House. All are created in a kitchen free from machinery, apart from a couple of mixers. The whole visit lasts two hours, during which there is a raffle of the objects chocolate which you have seen being conjured up. Entrance to demonstrations: £3 (£3.50 in November), under-14s free. No unaccompanied under-14s. The shop is open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday (and some Saturdays).

Dobsons Sweets, Northgate, Elland, W. Yorks (01422-372165). Groups of over 20 are shown the old-fashioned humbugs, pear-drops and toffees being created – and can taste them while still warm. The firm, founded by the present owner's great-grandfather, turns out five tons of confectionery a week. Visitors by appointment only; a family might be able to tag along with a larger group. Entrance £2.

Jonathan Sale

Tel: 0171 293 2222

## travel • overseas, uk

Fax: 0171 293 2505

<p><b>India</b></p> <p><b>Himachal Land of the SNOWS</b></p> <p>From December to February each year, a deep covering of snow turns Himachal Pradesh into a winter playground: Shimla has its own natural ice-rink; not far away are the ski slopes of Kufri; and for the truly adventurous there is the thrill of heli-skiing on uncrumpled powder snow.</p> <p>Why not combine skiing with a visit to Chandigarh, the city created by Le Corbusier in the 1950's as a dramatic vision of India's future. Or spectacular Dharamshala (adopted home of the Dalai Lama) and unspoiled Dalhousie, all nestling peacefully in the foothills of the magnificent Himalayas.</p> <p>An Indian winter: the next best thing to an Indian summer.</p> <p>For a free brochure call 01233 211999 or post this coupon to, India Tourist office, 7 Cork Street, London W1X 2LN.</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____</p> <p><b>india</b> changes you</p> <p>Ind 28/9/96</p>	<p><b>India</b></p> <p><b>kerala</b> a special destination in <b>india</b></p> <p>call the real specialists now for our superb brochure 2 weeks from £650 <b>Cape Travel Co. Ltd</b> 0181-943 4067</p> <p><b>Holidays Afloat UK</b> BEAUTIFUL WATERWAY: Surrey! Hants. Last boats (01250) 700891.</p> <p><b>UK Travel</b> <b>Welcome</b> 1997 NEW best ever brochure not off the press. Don't delay – phone now! Scotland, Highlands, Lakes, Dales, North York Moors, Peak District, Wales, Norfolk, Suffolk, Dorset, West Country, Southern Ireland</p> <p><b>Channel Islands</b> <b>GUERNSEY</b> 3 DAYS BY AIR FROM ONLY <b>£109</b> DEPARTS EVERY DAY (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat &amp; Sun) Price includes flights from Gatwick + 500 in superb hotels. All rooms with colour TV. FREE ALSO INCLUDES Hotel Grounds, 17 or 21 night <b>BOOK NOW</b> 0181-980 7244 TIMESCAPE</p> <p><b>Ireland</b> <b>Beautiful Kerry</b> Woodland forest lakes, rivers &amp; sea views, now 18/20 April SEVEN BRAYS ALSO AVAILABLE <b>£169</b> 0645 123517</p> <p><b>English Country Cottages</b> An UNPARALLELED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 44 page colour brochure. RING (01495) 852222 QUOTE F 86 02495</p> <p><b>BATH</b> Luxury flat in quiet central location, sleeps 2+, no smokers, children or pets. Tel: 01275 29033</p> <p><b>Cotswolds</b> CHOICE OF A COSY STONE COT- TAGES in quiet village near Bath, sleeps 4. Open fire, full CH, use of indoor swim- ming pool, lovely walks. 4 poster bed, available for 3 night breaks or by week. New/Refurb (2000) from £165. Tel: 01262 658842, Eve 01262 658425.</p>	<p><b>Activity Holidays</b></p> <p><b>Breathing Space.</b> (Don't take it for granted)</p> <p>We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.</p> <p>For over 40 years, THE RAMBLERS' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside.</p> <p>Take a walk. Take a breather; consider the future. Invest in THE RAMBLERS.</p> <p><b>Working for walkers</b> 1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX. Regd. Charity No. 306089</p> <p><b>Devon &amp; Cornwall</b> <b>SPOIL HER</b> With a Special Weekend Break at our luxury Country House Hotel nestled in 11 acres of gardens and woodland amidst North Devon's rolling countryside. £100.00 PP. 10/25/25 inclusive. Friday to Sunday Lunch. Or a Midweeker at £49.95 Per Day (2 nights or more). Beautiful en suite bedrooms. Fabulous food including vegetarian. Log Fires. Warm and relaxing. Pets Welcome. No Children. RAC *** AA 747 M RD BOUTE RESTAURANT AND BAR. BOUTE COUNTRY HOUSE Paddock, Nr. Cullinst, Devon EX29 9PL. Tel: 01392 885455</p> <p><b>The Lake District</b> HILTYHWAITE HOUSE Woodsmoor Thornborough Road, overlooking lake. All rooms ensuite (some with luxurious bath). Satellite TV, sea- making, sauna, 7th floor room and heated indoor pool solely for our guests' use. 3 nights, 5 course dinner B&amp;B incl. VAT only £39. 3 nights only £130. Brochure 01229 586742 691 fax 01229 586405.</p> <p><b>Scotland</b> <b>Country Cottages in Scotland</b> EXCEPTIONAL holiday properties in the most beautiful areas of Scotland. FREE 4 PAGE BROCHURE RING (01228) 844011 QUOTE 5154 (ex VAT)</p> <p><b>SCOTLAND'S WELCOME COT- TAGES</b> Hot off the press new 1997 best ever colour brochure. Phone now! 01758 702228</p> <p><b>1796 BARN</b> in peaceful lake ham- let. Sleeps 2. Log fire. CH. Water level view. Tel: 01229 885455</p> <p><b>THE INDEPENDENT</b> <b>Fill your holiday cottage, villa or apartment vacancies</b></p> <p>Independent and Independent on Sunday readers book Self Catering holidays. 418,000 of our readers stayed in a holiday villa, flat or cottage on their holiday last year!</p> <p>For only £4.12 a line inclusive of VAT (approx. 4 words per line), you can advertise your holiday home and fill these vacancies throughout the year. Your advertisement will appear in the weekend section of The Independent on Saturday and/or the Review section of the Sunday paper.</p> <p>Insertion Dates: _____ Classification: _____ I enclose a cheque for £... made payable to (UK: a line per insertion, £4.12 if both Saturday &amp; Sunday are used) Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit my _____ Account/VISA/Master/Debit account by £... Card No. _____ Start Date: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Your Details: _____ Name: _____ Address: _____ Tel No: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Signature: _____</p> <p>Fill in and send to: Tina Prince, Travel Team, Classified Advertising, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3JL.</p> <p><b>ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...</b> Either call Tina Prince on 0171 293 2607 Monday to Friday between 9.30am - 5.30pm. OR Fill in and return the coupon below stating the working you require and your payment method. Payment can be made by cheque or by Access/VISA/American Express/Debit Card. <b>PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY</b></p>	<p><b>Wales</b> A superb selection of quality character cottages in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. All properties furnished to the highest standards. Phone now for free colour brochure <b>01239-881397</b> (24hrs)</p> <p><b>Pembrokeshire Coast &amp; Country Cottages</b></p> <p><b>Sussex</b> SEDESBOROUGH, Bicknell Hotel to Bath, Tudor Manor, Sussex breaks. Any 2 nights £36 pp DB&amp;B. 3rd night accom free, pay only £25 dinner &amp; breakfast. H&amp;S pool. Tel (01424) 870253. AA, RAC 3 star, RAC rest award 91-95.</p> <p><b>Yorkshire &amp; The Dales</b> SUPERB COTTAGES, Yorks Dales, Northcliffe, Laithes, Poles, Scales Cottages (01544) 24700. YORKSHIRE DALES, Moors, Coast, Peak &amp; Lake District. Over 200 self-catering cottages. Illustrated Brochure, Holiday Cottages York- shire, Wetherby, S1, Supton, B293 1PB (01756) 7000. H&amp;S pool. YORK 25% OFF 2 star Haworth Coast Hotel, Car Park, Central Brochure 01904 425155. DALES beautiful renovated sea- side, 100 yds to 18, piers welcome. Brochure 01758 540495</p> <p><b>Wales</b> <b>BRECON BEACONS/BLACK MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK</b> Over 100 self catering cottages, some sleep up to 30. Many less than £250 per week high season. <b>01874 676446</b></p> <p><b>COAST &amp; COUNTRY</b> Colour brochure of 500 farmhouses/cot- tages throughout Wales. All tourist board inspected/graded. Wales Holidays 01688 622887.</p> <p><b>Wales Specials</b> Choose from over 410 cottages. 01282 448728 L&amp;H&amp;S.</p> <p><b>SNOWDONIA COASTLINE</b> Llwyn penninsula. Coastal and country cottages and farmhouses. H&amp;S Holidays 01768 720674</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



# Ten years of Independent travel

Here, there, everywhere: a decade of travellers' tales. Compiled by Omega Douglas



The depth of devotion to Cuba, the Caribbean's most dramatic island

Photograph: John Voos

The idea of Australia as a package holiday destination may seem positively eccentric. London to Sydney is a flight of around 24 hours; if you take off from London at 6pm on Thursday evening, you arrive at Sydney (11 hours ahead of GMT) at around 6am on Saturday morning. Friday is no more than a passing blip of daylight glimpsed somewhere over the Middle East.

Twenty-four hours in an aeroplane is a very, very long time – particularly if you're flying steerage in economy class. The journey becomes a series of unwatchable films followed by a succession of inedible meals.

Frank Barrett, December 1986

At the quayside restaurant in Ostend last week, the proprietor dried her hands on her apron and frowned: "After Zeebrugge, the British don't want to come to Belgium – it is very sad". The captioning of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* was not Belgium's fault, but its tourist industry is suffering.

Others blame the continuing repercussions of the Heysel stadium riot two years ago for the downturn in British visitors. An old man in a bar repeated rumours of English cars left in the streets of Brussels being attacked. "That's absurd," said another customer. "In Belgium we love the British."

Jeremy Round, October 1987

Life in Manhattan is like mainlining on pure energy, and the British are getting hooked as cheap flights shuttle ever more furiously across the Atlantic and the exchange rate puts the cost of living within the budget of those without expense accounts. The city is now the top long-haul destination from the UK. But beware: you may find yourself blasted out of the torpor of a sluggish winter yet in need of a rest when you return.

Hilly James, March 1988

Stepping out of the aircraft I was struck by the crisp mountain air and the brilliant blue sky. On the tarmac stood a line of troop-carrying helicopters, their five rotor blades giving them the appearance of giant khaki grasshoppers. The Mongolian soldiers on sentry duty wore inscrutable looks on their faces and gold "soyombo" on their epaulettes. The feeling was that I had landed in a country that only Tintin and his faithful hound Snowy could visit, a sort of people's republic of Shangri La. In reality I had arrived in Mongolia.

Nick Middleton, May 1989

Ballycastle is a handsome town, overlooked by the solitary mountain of Knocklayd – large, gently curved and symmetrical. A solid mid-18th-century church and an inviting inn, where I am to stay, dominate its centre. I watch a group of boys playing hurling with

sticks on the roadway while I eat a chunky chocolate ice cream bar and slake my thirst with three cans of Coke. The pleasure of walking is its simplicity: you just eat, drink, sleep and walk.

John Birt, November 1990

The ruins of B&B were among the most spectacular on our route. A luxury office building where I had worked in 1987 was now a gutted ruin. Peaceful Christian quarters, untouched by fighting a few years ago, were now wind-worn with bullets and shellfire. On the Damascus highway, one hopeful had named his stall – amid the ruins of one mountain village – the Peace Café. But Lebanese soldiers on main intersections marshalled traffic with loaded rocket-propelled grenade launchers on their shoulders.

Hugh Pope, November 1991

At night, Blackpool comes up suddenly at the end of the motorway like Las Vegas on the desert. It shimmers on the Lancashire coast the way West Berlin used to if you looked at it from the other side of the Wall, a tantalising come-on, a glittering commercial for... excess. There's something potent in the promiscuous use of electricity, especially in these tight-arsed days of conservation.

Reggie Nadelson, October 1992

Whitby is a place for weirdos. Always has been, always will be. Fishing weirdos, folk singing weirdos, weirdo weirdos – you name them. Bram Stoker holed up in a B&B here a century ago and penned his best known tale, in which two visiting lovelies, Lucy and Mina, reel around town feeling oddly queasy and having funny turns on the cliff tops. The normal Whitby explanation for this sort of behaviour – a surfeit of Telly's and a crab sandwich that was a touch green at the edges – didn't stick, and so, thanks to Dracula, the place went up several rungs in the weirdo destination stakes, permanently, almost internationally.

This is a town where you can buy some of the best kippers in the world, smoked in front of your eyes; where salmon sneak their silvery way up the Esk to spawn in the wild hills of the North Yorkshire Moors; where the raw fresh air of the ragged, savage coastline can whip you up into a delicious chill stupor at the drop of a hat, even in midsummer.

David Hewson, September 1993

Sometimes the Cuban spirit seems to be a human manifestation of the word "passion", with desire only marginally muted by mahatnutrition. You witness the passion with which salsa, an undiluted celebration of African roots, is performed even for unappreciative tourists; the emotion with which schoolchildren express their willingness to "die in a hail of bullets like

Ché", if forced to choose between socialism, death; and the depth of devotion to the Caribbean's most dramatic island.

The Cordillera Guaniguanico, a mountain spine that arcs along to the western tip of Cuba, is even harder to drive around than it is to pronounce. Each successive twist and turn of the track through the hills reveals a more striking image of tobacco fields, sumptuously green against the red earth and framed by towering limestone outcrops that make the horizon look like a row of particularly unsound teeth.

Simon Calder, October 1994

Sandwiched between two austere Islamic regions, the five Batak tribes of north-west Sumatra are for the most part Christian, and very jolly with it. Christianity being a topping to ancient, animist beliefs. Unlike many other parts of Indonesia, you will find pork on the menu here, with the live ingredients engagingly rooting around villages. And the Bataks have no hang-ups about the uncleanness of dogs; there are plenty of fluffy puppies gambolling around – which they also eat. Horses, too; in fact, anything going. They also used to eat each other, but stopped at the behest of missionaries in about the middle of the last century.

Harriet O'Brien, June 1995

This was the story for which Harriet O'Brien was awarded the Traveler prize as Travel Writer of the Year.

## Can you face winning our competition?

A salvo of Arctic wind blasted through the city, prompting the people to set their collars a notch or two higher against the cold – and their fellow citizens. "Don't rush me!", pleaded the homeless man, clutching a plastic cup on one of the grubbier street corners. "One donation at a time, please."

London 1986. Moscow 1991 or Washington DC 1996? To mark 10 years of Independent travel writing, match descriptions with destinations to win a "holiday".

### The prize

The journey will begin on the evening of 7 November when the winner joins Simon Calder on an overnight rail and ship trek from London to the Hook of Holland, connecting with the train to Hengelo near the German border. There you will begin a day's hitch across northern Europe before checking in for the night – probably at a former DDR youth camp on the outskirts of Germany's biggest city.

The weekend will be spent researching Berlin exactly seven years after the Wall came down. The return journey will be the same trip in reverse (though possibly even colder), and should end in London on the morning of 11 November. The travel and accommodation costs will be met; other expenses are the winner's responsibility. It is hoped that the winner will write an account of the trip, paid at normal rates.

If this does not appeal, the winner can opt instead for a copy of a guidebook to Berlin. The trip will then be offered to the runner-up. Should it again be declined, the option will pass to the third in line.

### The tie-break

The first prize is a dismal journey across the North Sea, Holland and the autobahn network to Berlin. So what should be the second prize? Answers in 25 words or less.

### How to enter

Match the text from Independent travel stories to a place and date. If you think the first quote goes with location/date (k), write 1:k, and so on. Add your tie-break (see above), name, address and daytime telephone number, and post your entry to Ten Year Hitch, Travel Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL, to arrive by 21 October. Fax: 0171-293 2451.

1. "Oh my God," she sighed, inhaling deeply as she moved on to the next bouquet. "Oh my God," she groaned again in fresh ecstasy. An assistant asked courteously if she wanted any help. "No thanks," replied the customer. "I just come in here when I need a break from life, ya know wad I mean?"

2. "Persons wearing smart casual attire in a good state of repair will be admitted", proposed a sign, a trifle unsure of itself.

3. Brochures emphasising the winter sun and luxury hotels seem tilted at yuppies and the middle class intelligentsia. I visited the area as their self-appointed and extremely unlikely representative.

4. Someone in uniform came in, his walkie-talkie crackling. "Have you got an NUJ card?" "No," I admitted. With a hint of triumph, he squawked into his radio: "No November-Uniform-Juliet card."

5. Spending just one minute at each exhibit, it would take eight years to see the contents. The Intourist tour lasts 90 minutes.

6. The Chief collects \$2.50 per visitor, but it is customary to bring offerings of cigarettes and biscuits too. We had an intra-bus cultural clash over what sort of biscuits; I held out for Custard Creams, while the Germans wanted something a bit less tasty.

7. Centuries of history, odd little alleyways and stunning Islamic designs have been distilled into a glorified carpet warehouse.

8. "Do you want first class tickets, or second class tickets – in the back with the blacks?" asked the white ticket clerk. Second class was fine, just as comfortable and half the price. We brought the cheaper tickets, but they still made us sit in the separate compartment in the front with the black driver and postman.

9. The bar was fitted out in the worst possible taste, yet it had a curious elegance. The stools and sofas were covered with fake leopard skin; stuffed heads of big game peered out of the bamboo-lined walls.

10. "Pies, pies, pies," sighs a pretty blonde waitress breezing past with two slices of cherry; a blueberry and a piece of ultra-rich peanut butter pie. "More coffee?" offered an even prettier, blonder co-worker.

a: Twin Peaks country, Washington, 1990  
b: Tenerife, 1987  
c: Senegal, 1986  
d: The casino, Adelaide, 1993  
e: Istanbul, 1991  
f: Sarawak, 1994  
g: Luton, 1992  
h: Namibia, 1989  
i: The Hermitage, Leningrad, 1990.  
j: New York City, 1988

**A WHOLE COUNTRY IN ONE GREAT STATE**

The USA is a wonderful place to take a holiday – but with so much to offer, it's hard to choose where to visit next.

Well, we have the answer here in North Carolina. From the mountains in the west to our fabulous beaches to the east we've everything you could possibly want from your holiday.

You can meet Cherokee Indians, discover 18th century homesteads and experience the untouched splendour of our National Parks, secret lakes and forest trails.

If you're feeling energetic, play a round on our world famous championship golf courses. Or enjoy a breathtaking white water raft trip down the rapids.

Or simply unwind in our bars and restaurants and make new friends while enjoying our legendary Southern cuisine and hospitality.

With daily direct flights, the Real America is just a short hop away.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

RING FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE  
**0990 333 123**

**Whatever your kind of ski holiday**

We can Make it happen

Ski Canada from £299\*

Ski Chalets from £249\*

Ski Weekends from £199\*

• 39 resorts in USA, Canada, Italy, Andorra, France, Austria • Flights from 7 UK airports  
SEE YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL  
**01235 824428**  
FOR A SKI ARTOURS 96/97 BROCHURE  
Quote ref: SKW97

**Airtours**

Airtours Holidays Ltd, acting as agents for Airtours plc, ATOL 1179 ABTA 98898. Subject to availability. Insurance extra. \*For full details of prices see SKI Airtours 96/97 brochure.

# A veritable spaghetti of pistes

The Italian mountains are among the most spectacular in Europe. By Chris Gill

The weak lira has forced Italian skiing to the top of the agenda for many British skiers. Happily, the days are long gone when Italian resorts sold purely on price; you can now expect efficient modern lifts, state-of-the-art snowmaking and some of the most assiduous piste-grooming in the Alps. The Italian mountains are among the most spectacular in Europe, and are dotted with deliciously distracting mountain restaurants. The resorts range from valley towns to remote mountain retreats; here is a tour of the 20 most appealing.

Directly west of Turin, the road and railway make for the Frejus tunnels beneath the Alpine watershed to France. Just on the Italian side is Bardonecchia – a pleasant, towny resort with a fair-sized intermediate ski area, the main drawback of which is a lack of altitude.

More interesting for a week's holiday is the Milky Way – with a claimed 400km of piste, one of the big linked areas of Italian skiing and indeed of the Alps in general. Scaze d'Oula is the Milky Way resort to head for. Low prices and an impressively extensive, partly wooded local ski area are again attracting large numbers of Brits, but its reputation as prime lager-lout territory is history. It is no beauty, but has the feel of a village, which is more than can be said for Sestriere, over the hill.

This high, bleak resort has reliable snow and some excellent skiing (it's the venue this winter of the world skiing championship). But it's a sprawling mess of a village, with poor access to the rest of the Milky Way. A better alternative is the modern ski station of Samsicarto.

The next concentration of resorts, north-west of Turin, is around the long Aosta valley, which comes to a precipitous halt at the foot of Mont Blanc (Monte Bianco on this side of the frontier). Or it did until the mid-Sixties, when a road driven beneath the summit of Europe instantly made Courmayeur the most easily accessible resort in Italy. Despite the lorries thundering past, the old, partly car-free village is also one of the most captivating Italian resorts, with stylish shopping as well as varied nightlife. The Mont Blanc massif offers spectacular runs for good skiers, but the local ski area is rather small and monotonous, mainly appealing to red-run skiers. It does have comprehensive snowmaking, though.



In Italy you can expect state-of-the-art snowmaking and some of the best piste-grooming in the Alps

Photograph: Skishoot/Offshoot

A few miles down the valley is La Thuile. It sounds French, and half the accessible skiing is actually in France – above La Rosière, visible across the Isère valley from Les Arcs. The road over the Petit St Bernard pass is a piste in winter, skirting a ski area that is not huge but has something for everyone. You can stay in a modern complex at the foot of the slopes, in the partly restored old mining

village a walk away, or in sprawling suburbs reached by bus.

Across the Aosta valley, side valleys stretch away towards a different border. Cervinia's skiing links with that of quintessentially Swiss Zermatt, but the connection is of little value – Zermatt's best skiing can't be reached in a day-trip. Cervinia itself is unique: nowhere else offers such an extent of sunny, snowsure,

gentle cruising terrain, free of nasty surprises; but advanced and adventurous skiers will soon get bored. Italian jollity goes some way to make up for the dreary, mainly post-war village; but there's something to be said for staying down the road in Valtourneche – not least the splendid home run at the end of the day.

In the next valley, although miles away by road, is the quiet, traditional village of

Champoluc, at one end of the three-valley Monte Rosa lift network embracing the even quieter villages of Gressoney and Alagna. It is no rival for the Trois Vallées (and in fact you have to ski off piste to get to Alagna), but the area offers a real sensation of travel on skis over friendly terrain, and the scenery is impressive.

Also close to the Swiss border but in the centre of the Italian Alps are several

more-or-less isolated resorts. Much the most compelling is Livigno: its killer combination of a fair-sized, high-altitude ski area and low duty-free prices attracts more British skiers than any other Italian resort. It's awkward to get to and to get around – the village sprawls for miles along its wide, bleak valley – but the buildings are traditional in style and small in scale, and the "car-free" centre (complete with petrol station) is pleasant.

Most people get to Livigno via Bormio, a medieval spa town that is much more difficult to recommend. Consider it only if you like red slopes, and don't mind a lack of flattering blues and challenging blacks; if you like the idea of polishing your intermediate technique on a few long runs; and if you're happy to choose between staying in the atmospheric but inconvenient centre of town and staying in a modern skier's suburb.

Madesimo's skiing is not much more extensive but it is much more varied. It's an attractive mountain village, despite modern expansion, but is reached by the world's scariest hairpin road.

Finally, in the north-east of the country, north of Verona and Venice, are the Dolomites, an area distinguished by mind-blowing scenery and an amazing amount of skiing, mainly of easy or intermediate difficulty. The necklace of runs around the Sella massif has few equals, and the Dolomiti Superski pass covers these plus hundreds of other lifts in separate resorts.

Sella is the best-known base – a lively village, traditional-style but not super-quiet – and is one of the best-placed for exploration of the region. Its local skiing has exceptional snowmaking coverage, too. But consider also Corvara for its direct access to the Alta Badia area (also accessible from San Cassiano), and tiny Arabba for its challenging, north-facing skiing off the main Sella Ronda circuit.

The Dolomites are at their scenic best a few miles away around Cortina d'Ampezzo, the most upmarket of Italian resorts and a great place for leisurely lunches in the sun. Dramatic, pink-tinged spires and cliffs rise abruptly from the gentle slopes around the town, giving picture-postcard views throughout the ski areas. In a detached Dolomite area away to the west, Madonna di Campiglio is a sort of poor man's Cortina; the scenery may be not quite as spectacular, but the skiing is less segmented.

Tel: 0171 293 2222

travel • overseas, skiing

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Special Interest Holidays	France	Skiing Holidays	Australia
<b>An adventure of a lifetime ...and it's FREE (almost!)</b>  • 6 day hike, April 1997 • Spectacular Sinai Desert canyons and oases • Swim in the Red Sea • Experience sunrise on Mount Sinai • Sleep under the stars (optional) • Enjoy Middle Eastern hospitality • Only £195* plus minimum sponsorship • Flights, meals and accommodation included <b>Call now: 0345 69 79 69</b> <small>Quoting ref: ISH 0510</small>	<b>IMAGINE</b> to do whatever you want  <b>0541 555 055</b> <b>Eurocamp</b> Our experience makes all the difference *Family & 2 adults up to 4 children ABTA 92310	<b>French Skiing at its best</b>  <b>Les Arcs</b> Brochure 0171-584 7829 1250-3250m Tel: 0171-584 2841 Tel: 0171-584 3228	<b>ESCAPOLOGY MADE SIMPLE</b> <b>AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND</b> <b>£499 RETURN £299 ONE WAY</b> For the lowest fares to Australia and New Zealand, and the best advice on planning your big trip, visit Australvel. From budget accommodation to visas and low cost travel insurance. For your FREE copy of The Great Escape Guide pop into the <b>BRAND NEW GREAT ESCAPE SHOP</b> . <b>OR CALL US NOW ON: 0171 584 0202</b>
<b>ACTIVE &amp; ADVENTUROUS JOURNEYS</b>  Brochure Lines: 0181 742 3049 1st Floor, 14 Barley Mow Passage, London W14 4PH	<b>1997 HOLIDAYS FOR LESS</b> Book by the 25th October and pay less than 1996 prices  <b>KEYCAMP</b> 24 hours including Sunday • Please quote 01 42	<b>SKI AUSTRIA</b> 7, 9, 10, 17 days to Mayrhofen (Tyrol Alps) <b>£89</b> All dates available from June 1997 All dates include luxury coach travel All dates include breakfast All dates include ski pass All dates include ski school All dates include ski equipment All dates include ski lift tickets All dates include ski instructor All dates include ski gear All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include ski underwear All dates include ski overalls All dates include ski boots All dates include ski poles All dates include ski goggles All dates include ski helmet All dates include ski gloves All dates include ski socks All dates include	





## Do we still enjoy skiing?

In the old days we skied badly but cheerfully. If only that was still the case today

JOELIN GETTY

Sir Arnold Lunn's *History of Skiing* is full of good stuff. Did you know, for example, that skis were in use in Great Britain long before they ever appeared in Switzerland? Miners in Cumberland apparently used to "she" to work in winter in the 1840s. And were you aware that when the Swiss finally caught up, in the late 1880s, it was largely thanks to us? As Sir Arnold says, we "can claim to be among the first to introduce skiing to Switzerland".

Much of his book is devoted to such matters: the unearthing of prehistoric skis from Swedish bogs, the ideological disputes (one ski pole or two?) between the Austrian and Norwegian schools of skiing in the late-19th century, and so on. But suddenly, on page 340, Sir Arnold turns introspective: chapter 28 is titled "Do we enjoy skiing?"

He has his doubts. In the old days, he says, "We enjoyed ourselves with the happiness of children... We skied badly, but we were cheerfully resigned to our incom-

petence". So dismayed is Sir Arnold by what has happened to the sport, "the Frankenstein which I have helped to create", that he is tempted to form an association for the discouragement of skiing. Among his proposals is that "a special staff of sandwich men with arms in slings and their heads in bandages, bearing large placards [saying] 'Victims of skiing accidents' would be engaged to hobble up and down platforms at Victoria and Charing Cross, in order to persuade outgoing winter sportsmen to abandon skiing".

The ultimate object of the association would be that "in time, the standard of skiing might be lowered to the primitive condition of happy inefficiency". Sir Arnold does not dispute "that British skiing has improved out of all recognition since the war... [But] do we ever enjoy skiing? I wonder. For we are always either skiing too fast, and frightened, or too slow, and ashamed".

I should perhaps point out here - if you haven't already guessed - that the war to

which Sir Arnold refers is the First World War: his *History of Skiing* was published in 1927. But the issue he raises is still relevant, probably more so. Now that we have got to grips with living in an age of leisure we have learnt to make most of our pleasures last. Think of your other favourite pastimes - perhaps sex, cookery or night-climbing. If they were meant to be done in a hurry no one would have invented the play or home-made pasta, and there wouldn't be clubs that open at 3am on Sunday morning when the others close. Yet with skiing, the better you get at it, the sooner it's over. It is, specifically, good skiing that has to be discouraged.

When it comes to being a spokesman for lousy skiers, I suspect that I am better qualified than Sir Arnold. But my position is more moderate than his: I firmly believe that everybody has the right to ski. All we

need is a policy of segregation, to protect the lousy skier from the pressure to become a good one.

For those whose heads are full of finer things than just powder and wax, a chair lift can be as much fun as the piste: the more you climb, the further away you get from cities, crowds and pollution; the view of the mountains becomes bigger and better, and the amount of skiing time you store up increases. As with altitude, so with mood: when you are up you are up, and when you are down you are down.

So a lousy skier does not take a mad dash down the mountainside. With his "happy inefficiency" he makes the most of the benefits conferred by the chairlift (which, in Sir Arnold's day were much harder won, by walking up) descending in gentle traverses, stopping frequently to admire the view or hug a tree, and frightening no one.

Here lies the first argument for segregation. Beautiful slopes are wasted on good skiers - all they see is a blur - so the most attractive resorts, particularly those with wonderful runs winding through woodland, should be reserved for lousy skiers. Good skiers would, of course, be offered a suitable alternative such as Sierra Nevada in Spain, where most of the skiing is on a kind of motorway.

Perhaps, indeed, the Alps should be entirely devoted to lousy skiing: ecological groups such as Alp Action are particularly concerned about the damage done by off-piste skiing, and lousy skiers only rarely go off-piste because they are caring and environment-friendly people... and because it's so bloody difficult.

Secondly, it is axiomatic that lousy skiers use lifts less frequently than good ones - they must do, because they spend more time on the slopes. It is a matter of simple justice that they should be spared the queues generated by skiers who use the lifts over and over again.

Third, as resorts are segregated they will be better able to serve their particular clientele. Thus those for lousy skiers will have more and better restaurants on the slopes, because everyone has to stop at them. Similarly, ski schools will specialise, with beginners' classes only in some resorts (a lousy skier must at least be able to ski) and flashy, advanced instructors in others.

Sadly, Sir Arnold Lunn, to admit that his association for the discouragement of skiing was "an idle dream... Man is a competitive animal, whatever the Socialist may say".

My plan to protect the lousy skier has no future, either. What would happen? All the good skiers would want to go to their resorts, so they would learn how to ski badly. The crowding would be intolerable. (Sir Arnold's sub-text was that he wanted a bit more solitude: what would he make of Courchevel 1850 on a fine Sunday morning?) The only solution, then, would be to become a good skier. And that would destroy the object of the exercise.

stephen wood

## White art in the Alps

Richard Holledge slides through the Portes du Soleil

I was one of those mornings. Instead of the sun brightening the *dens du midi*, spurring me out of bed and on to my skis - fog. A deep, blanketing, dampening fog which made all thoughts of skiing out of the question. Except of course, you can't not ski when you have only six days a year to pursue the white art.

So grumbling about the cold, the damp, the lack of visibility, our reluctant band of adventurers perched on the snow-covered chair lift as it swung out of the little Swiss resort of Champoussin and consoled ourselves with the thought that in these conditions, several pit stops and a long lunch were entirely justified and would at least cheer the day.

Then something extraordinary happened. The chair, reached about 2,000 metres, burst through the cloud and we found ourselves in bright, sparkling sunshine. Not a cloud to be seen, except below us. The mountains clear against the blue sky, the clouds furled like a great white floor around their upper reaches.

We could see for miles. Which was just as well, because Champoussin is one of the many villages and towns which make up the Portes du Soleil - an area of skiing which boasts 430 miles of pistes, 228 lifts and straddles Switzerland and France. I've skied the area a few times, mostly in rain and white-outs, and found it difficult to journey between range and valley, resort to resort. However well signed - and sometimes you have to be very sharp-eyed to pick up on the



Portes du Soleil, boasting 420 miles of pistes and 228 lifts. Skishoot/Offshoot

little signs on the Swiss side of the *domaine* - it makes a huge difference to be able to see not just the bottom of the run but into the next valley as well.

Heartened by the dramatic change in climate we resolved to ski to the furthest peak on the horizon, the Pointe de Nyon in Morzine.

The joy of the Portes du Soleil is in the feeling of getting places. You probably don't ski much more in a day than you would in a more compact ski area. But as you go from place to place, valley to valley, you feel as if you do.

From the top of Champoussin we scrambled through the new snow and back through the low-lying cloud to Les Crosets, a couple of hotels and bars and a link to the pretty Swiss village of Champoussin, and took a ride on the fast new four-seater chair into the Avoriaz territory. At which point we settled for the

first hot chocolate of the day with a Wilhemina chaser - a rather fierce peer liquor - to quicken the heart.

Skirting Avoriaz, rickety, modern, with apartment blocks like stalagmites, we cruised gently in the sun down a succession of blue runs - the kind of runs through woods and past mountain restaurants that you feel you could do all day - until the gondola which takes you into Morzine.

A determined stride through the town, (well, the driver of the *navette* which is meant to take you to the gondola refused to stop), and we were in a completely new area of the circuit. Morzine has a different atmosphere to its brash neighbour, Avoriaz. It is more sophisticated, has a better range of bars and cafes and a ski area linked to nearby Les Gens which is big enough in itself to sustain the intermediate skier for a week.

leaves Les Crosets at 4.30pm sharp. We were at least eight lifts, one walk across town and six runs away. Received wisdom was that we had to leave Morzine at 2.30. It was now 2.45.

Valuable seconds were lost when one of the party elected to head back to Morzine; it got tense when the chair link to Avoriaz stopped for five minutes; it got irritating when we turned left after Avoriaz instead of right and had to clamber back up the hill.

It seemed sensible to spurn the challenge of the Chavanne, between Avoriaz and Les Crosets. It is one of the most demanding runs of the area, a fact not helped by the fact that many people choose to go down on the chair and pour scorn on your endeavours when you finally reach the bottom, quivering and shaking. A narrow entry point, a big black sign which warns you of perils ahead and a series of huge moguls at the very top make it a run to attempt when you are feeling relaxed and confident and not rushing for the 4.30.

We opted for the direct route, slithered untidily down the slopes above Les Crosets and hit the connecting chair at 4.29. As I slid off the chair at the top, the lift clicked to a halt. Silence. The sun disappeared behind the range, the snow acquired that springtime, early evening crunchiness and we shushed back to Le Poussin, a small friendly bar on the slopes in Champoussin. Only one challenge remained. Who was to buy the first round of *l'etres sérieux*?

Now things got tense. The last lift back to Champoussin

**Get Piste Off!**

**this Christmas**

**AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD VIDEO RETAIL OUTLETS**

Forget socks and ties this Christmas.

For the first time on video, an unparalleled collection of exclusive BBC footage. Classic moments of winter sport... both good and hilarious.

Guaranteed to liven things up after the Queen's speech.

**Price £12.99**

**BBC**

# Listening to the grapevine...

Anna Pavord visits a pocket vineyard squeezed behind a terrace in Hammersmith

I could get drunk on the smell in our kitchen just now, let alone the brew that is responsible for it. It's damson wine. Three gallons of it are frothing with dangerous energy alongside the Aga. Gas escapes in regular bubbles through the airlocks, with the gurgling, ploppy sound of tropical frogs. With each pop, the surrounding air becomes more heavily intoxicated. It's heaven.

Three years on, that brew will be rather more dangerous than port, though with the same delicious tendency to light up your innards. There's nothing like damson wine to make you aware of exactly where the gut and digestive tract are in your body.

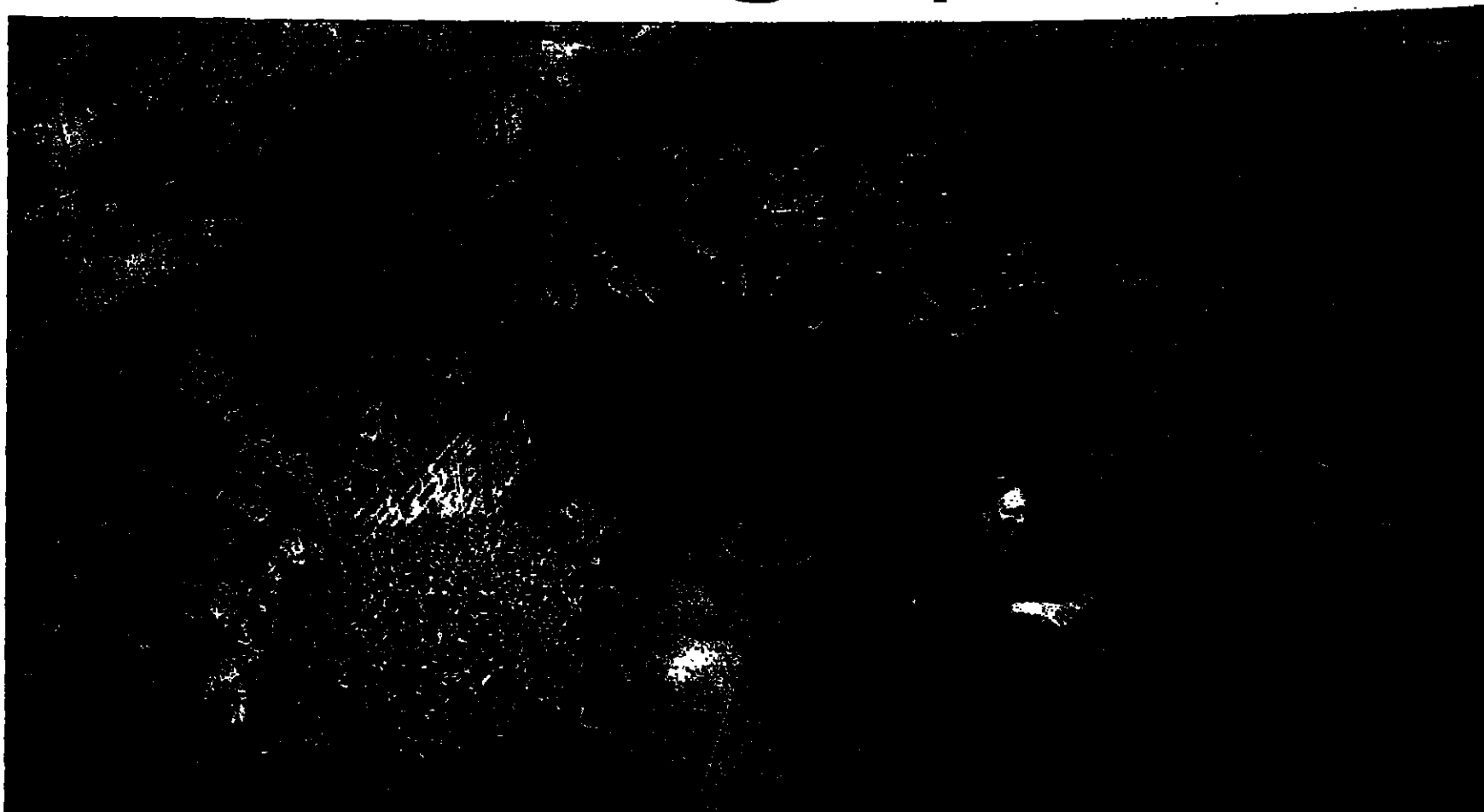
We planted a couple of grape vines when we first came to our house, and trained them on wires along one side of a vegetable plot. My husband hoped to be able to produce vintage brews from these, but they've been a failure. I now learn from Jim Page-Roberts that we've got the wrong sort of vines: Reising Sylvaner (Muller Thurgau). It's one of the most widely planted white wine grapes in the country, but with us it has been very prone to rot and mildew. You can spray, of course, but I want to drink wine, not cocktails of copper and sulphur.

Jim Page-Roberts is now on his third vineyard. That's if you can call a 10ft x 30ft back yard in Hammersmith, west London, a vineyard. I think you can. It's got 14 vines in it, which is 13 more than most of us grow.

Before he came to London, he had vineyards in Cambridgeshire and Hampshire. His star vine is 'Triomphe d'Alsace', but the French, he says, are snobby about it because it's not a 'classic' *Vitis vinifera* variety. After experimenting with most vines that can be cultivated in this country, he now grows only those that will produce a crop without the prop of sprays.

"I was at a vineyard in Cahors in France - that was when I made a living writing about wine - and I saw grapes there being harvested that were absolutely blue with copper. Commercial growers spray at least seven times with copper during the growing season and three times with sulphur. I wanted to grow without spraying."

His vines are trained up and along the brick walls that make boundaries either side of the garden and over four strong steel reinforcing rods that hoop over the yard from one side to the other. You walk down the garden under a canopy of vine leaves and dark bunches of grapes, all of them tantalizingly just out of reach of your mouth.



Jim Page-Roberts and star vine 'Triomphe d'Alsace'

At the end of the garden is a small octagonal hut, just big enough for two chairs and a table, where Jim Page-Roberts can sample his wines and admire the patterns of leaves and fruit that the sun throws on the paving slabs under the vine tunnel. It's like being in a room done out in William Morris wallpaper.

His 'Triomphe d'Alsace' is a monster, trained on a single stem up the left hand, south facing wall, over one of the hoops, along the top of the right-hand wall, right the way round behind the hut and then back to meet itself again on the left hand wall. All along the stem, spurs break out, hung with bunches of small black grapes. And there's not a blotch of mildew anywhere.

Any day now he'll be picking the grapes and making his Hammersmith Nouveau. Red wines are very much easier to do in this country than white ones, he says, and his method - now that his wine is for home consumption only - is very simple. He doesn't use a press. He doesn't jump up and down on the grapes in the bath. He has the same method as we have with our damson wine: stripping the fruit into a bucket, adding yeast and sugar and then draining off the resulting brew into a glass demijohn to ferment. But he drinks his wine young.

The best way, he says, with English reds. He makes three dozen bottles each year from his 14 vines.

In winter, you have to prune, for in our climate and soil, vines grow vigorously. If you leave it until spring, when the sap is rising, the vine bleeds copiously.

How copiously, I never knew until Mr Page-Roberts told me. He'd experimented, of course, cutting off a large branch of his 'Triomphe d'Alsace' in spring. It produced a pint of sap every nine hours for 13 days before the cut healed over and the flow was staunch. He had tried stopping it himself, with bitumen, with tourniquets, with a red hot iron, but to no avail.

"And did the vine die?" I asked with huge anxiety. "No," he replied briskly. "It made no difference whatsoever. It grew just as well that season as ever before."

Still, I'm not sure the vine would survive repeated attacks of that kind. Best to stick to the dormant season. Pruning is not difficult once you understand why you are doing it. It can be rather like wine drinking though. Some people think it is more than to baffle newcomers than to enlighten them. And (like drinking wine) you learn fastest about the subject by doing it, rather than reading about it.

You must have some kind of support to train the vine on. Tie the single stem in as it grows and then spur prune it each winter. A spur is the name for the point where a side branch breaks away from the main stem. You need to cut back the side branches leaving just two buds-worth of each branch at each spur. The grapes will be produced on the canes that grow from these spurs in the following season.

In summer, the pruning need not be so calculated. You just chop back leafy growth where it is over-exuberant, so that light and air can get through to the fruit. In commercial vineyards, this is now done with mechanical hedge cutters. Take heart from that and remember it the next time you open a book and panic at the sight of guyot, double-guyot, Geneva double curtains, Kniffen and multiple cordon pruning systems for vines. Pruning is a game, gardener against plant, and experienced players like finding ever more complicated ways of playing it.

The other great success in Jim Page-Roberts' garden is the strawberry vine, generally listed as *Vitis vinifera* 'Fragola'. It is better for eating than for wine making, he finds, as the grapes give a slightly foxy taste to wine. "Interesting in blends," he says, "but an acquired taste on its own."

His fruit turn rich strawberry pink when they are ripe, but he says there are similar clones that produce green or black fruit. The vine is healthy, never needs spraying, but unlike 'Triomphe d'Alsace' does not produce leaves suitable for stuffing. They are rather thick and felted. As the grapes ripen, the foliage turns yellow, with the veins standing out prominently in green.

He's waiting now for a cutting of a vine grown by a Kent enthusiast with whom he's been corresponding. Called by the *Guinness Book of Records* the Dartford Wondervine, he thinks it's probably *Vitis riparia*. It produces for its owner, Leslie Stringer, a staggering harvest of 2,300 kg of grapes a season. Containing that in a garden 30ft x 10ft will tax even Mr Page-Roberts' ingenuity.

Both 'Triomphe d'Alsace' and 'Fragola' are available mail order from B R Edwards at Sunnybank Farm, Llanvynoe, Herefordshire HR2 0NL (01873 860698). Mr Edwards sells the widest selection of vines in the country. Send a stamped, addressed envelope for the full list. For an engaging account of Jim Page-Roberts' experiments with vines read his book 'Vines and Wines in a Small Garden' (The Herbert Press £14.99).



## cuttings

David Berkley of Bridgewater writes with a problem about pears. "We have a 'family' pear tree, originally with 'William's Bon Chretien', 'Louise Bonne' and 'Conference', planted in 1973. How do we know when to harvest and how to store? Occasionally we get one that is just perfect, but more often they are either wooden or rotten. Perhaps we have the wrong varieties?"

The 'William's Bon Chretien', should be the first to ripen and should be picked while still green (usually in early September) just as soon as the stalk of the fruit will part easily from the tree. Then the fruit should be stored in a cool place for one or two weeks and eaten as soon as they start to soften. It's a fabulously flavoured pear, but susceptible to scab, unless it has perfect soil to grow in.

'Louise Bonne of Jersey' and 'Conference' are both slightly later to come into season than the 'Williams'. They should be ready to eat during late October and November. But, again, the fruit should be picked as soon as it will part from the tree and stored in a cool place to finish ripening. They will usually take between one and four weeks to reach their peak. Once there, they go off very quickly.

It was quite odd of the grower from whom Mr Berkley bought the family pear to put 'Williams' and 'Louise Bonne' on the same tree. They are well known to be incompatible in terms of pollination. His 'Conference' must be working very hard to cover both the other varieties as well as itself.

Anna Pavord

Tel: 0171 293 2222

gardening

Fax: 0171 293 2505

**Distinctive Garden Buildings**

HIGH QUALITY BUILDINGS IN A RANGE OF DEAL AND CEDAR. LARGE RANGE OF MODELS & SIZES.

- BUILDING MADE TO CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS
- GREENHOUSES
- SUMMERHOUSES
- GARDEN ROOMS
- WORKSHOPS
- CHALETs
- SHEDS
- PLAYDEN

CALL US NOW FOR A FREE COLOUR BROCHURE (24 HOURS)  
Tel: 0181 303 4982

387 BLACKHEATH ROAD, SIDCUP, KENT, DA15 9NJ

WARRENS

**GREENHOUSE HEATERS** CALOR GAS

GREAT NEWS for GARDENERS  
Colour Illustrated Catalogue  
Westfield Road  
Sylfield Industrial Estate, Guildford  
Surrey GU1 1RR

MasterCard

**The Calor Gas Centre**  
Guildford (01483) 300410

**SPEED SHELF**  
THE HIGH QUALITY, LOW COST 'SPACE MAKER' FOR GREENHOUSES & SHEDS

**'The Greenhouse Gardeners Choice'** AS FEATURED ON TV.

**GROWING FRAME SYSTEM**  
(Multi purpose staging)  
The ideal potting bench, intensive propagation unit, or plant display stand for patios and conservatories. An easy assembly frame to support up to 4 speed shelves (purchased separately).

**GREENHOUSE & SHED TIDY**  
Helps to keep all greenhouse equipment together and handy. Substances out of reach of children. Simple hook on attachment. A suspended vertical storage unit which frees valuable shelf and floor space.

**SPEED SHELVES**  
(Fold away shelving)  
Available in three styles. Easy to assemble, fits to most aluminium and wooden greenhouses. Can also be used to support growing crops. Instantly folds away when not in use. More cost effective than conventional fixed staging.

Write or phone for our free colour leaflets and details of your nearest stockist.

**J & C R WOOD** AVAILABLE FROM MOST GOOD GARDEN CENTRES  
111/113, 303 Hill Rd, Antioch Common, Hill HA4 7JZ Tel: (01482) 351915 Fax: (01482) 520155

**THE BEST NATURAL FERTILISER ON EARTH**

**GX**

100% Natural Fertiliser  
Ideal for all soils, flowers, lawns, vegetables, shrubs and trees.  
Six to eight times richer than farmyard manure for better value.  
Highly concentrated - use handfuls not barrowloads.  
Conditions the soil while it feeds the plants.  
One application continues working through the season.  
Fully composted and weed-free.  
SOW IN PELLETS FOR SMALLER GARDENS, PATIOS AND PATIOS.

GX now comes in two different forms. The traditional fibrous variety in sacks for larger flower gardens and vegetable plots. And odourless compressed pellets in boxes for convenient use in smaller flower borders, patio containers and pots. Either way, GX offers highly concentrated natural nutrients for a healthy boost to growth - you need so much less to achieve so much more!

**CALL FREEPHONE 0800 413 065**

ORGANIC CONCENTRATES LTD, DEPT. 191, 3 BROADWAY COURT, CHESHAM, BUCKS HP8 1LN.

**SUSSEX TRUG BASKETS**

Traditionally crafted from Willow and Sweet Chestnut.

Prices from £12.50-£45.00  
eg No 5 (18" x 10")  
£24.50 Plus £4.50 p&p  
Send S.A.E. for details.

**THE TRUGGERY**,  
(FG), Coopers Croft,  
Herrington, East Sussex BN27 1QL  
Tel/Fax: 01323 832314

**HANGING BASKET BALL**

For all round colour - all year round. Complete with pre-fitted liners & irrigation well. Water retention granules, H. Duty Chain, instructions.

**ONLY £13.95 (P&P inc.)**  
(flowers & bracket not inc.)  
**Webbs, Unit 2,**  
15 Station Road,  
Knebworth, Herts.  
SG3 6AP  
Tel: 01438 814620 (24hrs)

Comprehensive brochure available

**AQUAPLANTON**

For a crystal clear pond. Aquaplantron is a revolutionary new system. Safe for all forms of water life. For free brochure and price list phone 01449 774632 anytime or send the coupon, surface area of your pond to:

**AQUAPLANTON**,  
Clavering Cottage, Little London,  
Sturminster, Dorset, DT10 2ES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pond surface: \_\_\_\_\_ sq ft  
Does your pond have? Please tick:  
Non pump: ☐ Full sun: ☐  
Shaded: ☐ Shaded: ☐  
Shaded: ☐ Shaded: ☐  
Shaded: ☐ Shaded: ☐  
Shaded: ☐ Shaded: ☐

**The strongest • The lightest • The Best**

Total gardening enjoyment comes from using the best tools. Built with unsurpassing excellence in both design and materials.

- Indestructible, yet lightweight hopper - will never rust, handle or break.
- 100% duty guaranteed. Strong tubular steel chassis - robust and superbly balanced.
- Large, heavy-duty tyres, complete with roller bearings - smooth, effortless rolling.
- 6 all-terrain wheels in standard steel - nothing will rust or deteriorate with them.

Range of five in three sizes. Request Brochure Free

**BOLDER BARROWS**  
PO Box 46, Woking, Surrey GU24 7TU  
Tel/Fax: 01483 727 268

For Brochure on our TOPIARY & GARDEN FURNITURE Please write to:

**WADHAM TRADING COMPANY**  
Wadham House,  
Southrop, Nr Lechlade,  
Gloucestershire GL7 3PB  
Tel/Fax: 01387 850 489

To advertise in this section please call the Gardening Team on 0171 293 2344/2323.

**FRUIT PRESSES AND CRUSHERS**

Two types and a third type with a built-in pump. Free brochure.

• A range of 10 different models - from small to large - to suit all budgets and needs.  
• Fully guaranteed.  
• Free delivery.  
• Free advice.  
• Free collection.  
• Free repair.  
• Free replacement parts.  
• Free advice.  
• Free collection.  
• Free repair.  
• Free replacement parts.

**FRUIT PRESSES**  
111/113, 303 Hill Rd, Antioch Common, Hill HA4 7JZ  
Tel: (01482) 351915 Fax: (01482) 520155

**POND PLANTS.**

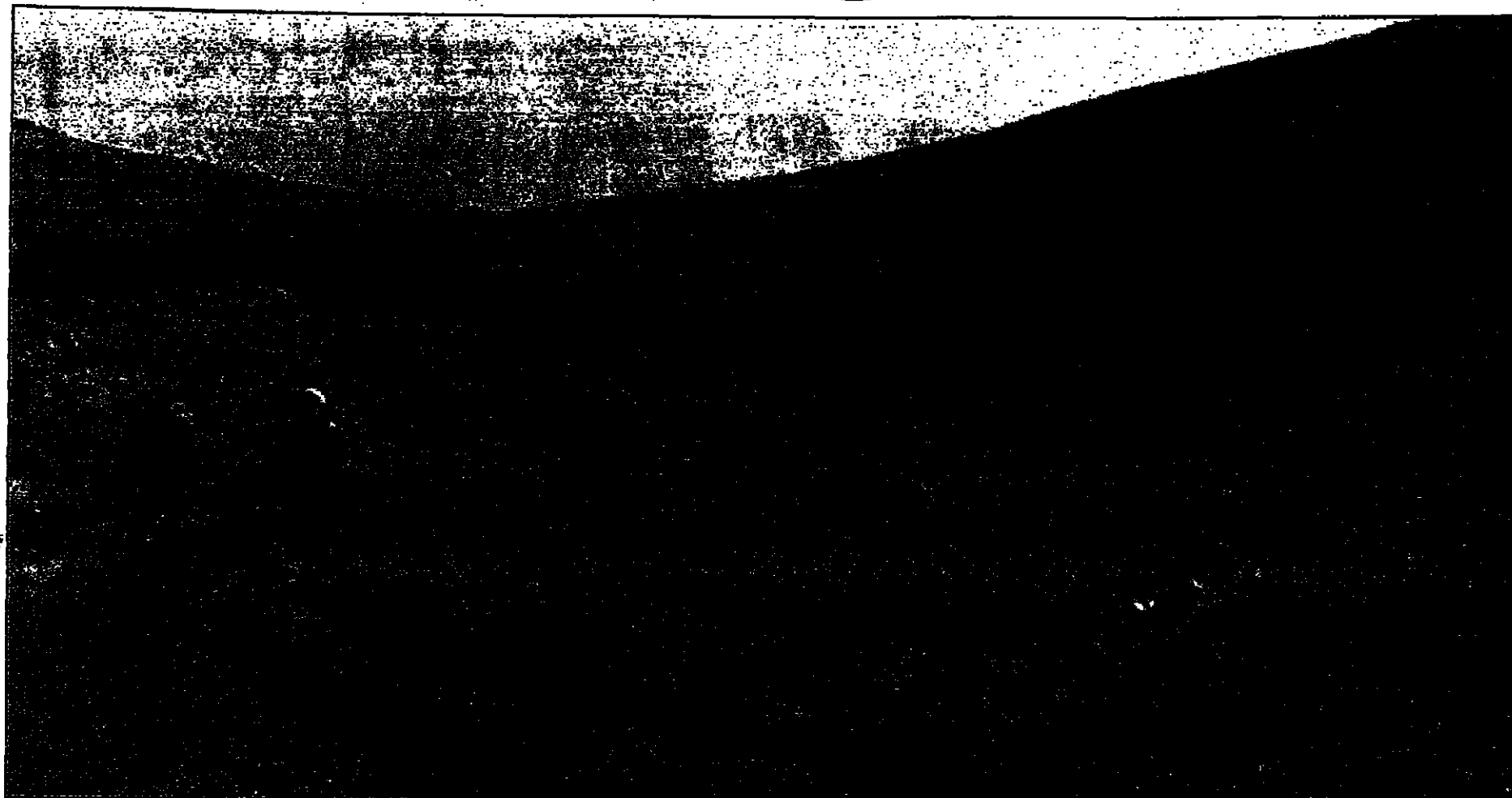
Water lilies, pond plants, pond fish, pond pumps, pond filters, pond aerators, pond heaters, pond lights, pond ornaments, pond furniture, pond accessories, pond maintenance, pond care, pond advice, pond collection, pond repair, pond replacement parts.

**FREE DELIVERY**  
Samples, advice and collection to G.A. Smith, 111/113, 303 Hill Rd, Antioch Common, Hill HA4 7JZ.  
Tel: 01754 820472

مكتبة من الأمل



# ...and striding out for a beer



A taste of the spectacular walks

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

## country walks Worth Matravers, Dorset

The south-west coast has one of England's most spectacular long-distance walks, stretching for 500 miles from Poole Harbour to Land's End and back along the Bristol Channel and into Somerset. For those without a month or so to spare to follow the whole route, this four-mile walk around St Aldhelm's Head in Dorset will give at least a taste of the experience.

The large car-park in Worth Matravers, complete with information boards and public toilets, suggests that tourism has long replaced quarrying or Purbeck stone as the most important local industry. Once the crowds of summer visitors have gone, however, the Isle of Purbeck can seem curiously remote and bleak. Walking from the car park to the Square and Compass Inn, the village centre, with its pretty little duck-pond, looks far too cosy to belong to such a wind-swept landscape.

The route down to the coast, signposted to Winspit, passes by a row of cottages before leading through a gate out into open fields. The sea lies straight ahead, the horizon framed by grassy hills, East Man and West Man, their steep slopes terraced with the contours of medieval lynchets. Beside the path, a stream-bed, densely overgrown with hawthorn, ash and ivy, cuts an ever-deepening gorge down to the sea.

The coastal path to St Aldhelm's Head is clearly marked above the shore at Winspit, but it is worth pausing to explore the old stone quarries that honey-comb the cliffs. Gigantic galleries, 100 feet or more in depth, are cut into the rock-face, supported on slim columns of uncut Purbeck stone.

Returning to the coastal path, the route climbs steadily towards St Aldhelm's Head. In places perilously close to the cliff edge, with unwelcome glimpses of the boiling surf 300 feet below, this is not a walk for those without a head for heights. Even meeting other walkers can occasionally challenge the conventions of good manners through a fear of stepping out

politely into space with a final cheery comment on the view.

From the coast-guard look-out on St Aldhelm's Head, some 50 miles of coastline can be seen, from the Isle of Wight to Portland Bill. There is a most unusual Norman chapel: square, unadorned and massively constructed to withstand the elements. Deeply etched graffiti on the stonework of its dim interior suggest that "tagging" was a well-established custom even in the 18th century.

For those whose need for exercise is waning by this point, a straight and level track pro-

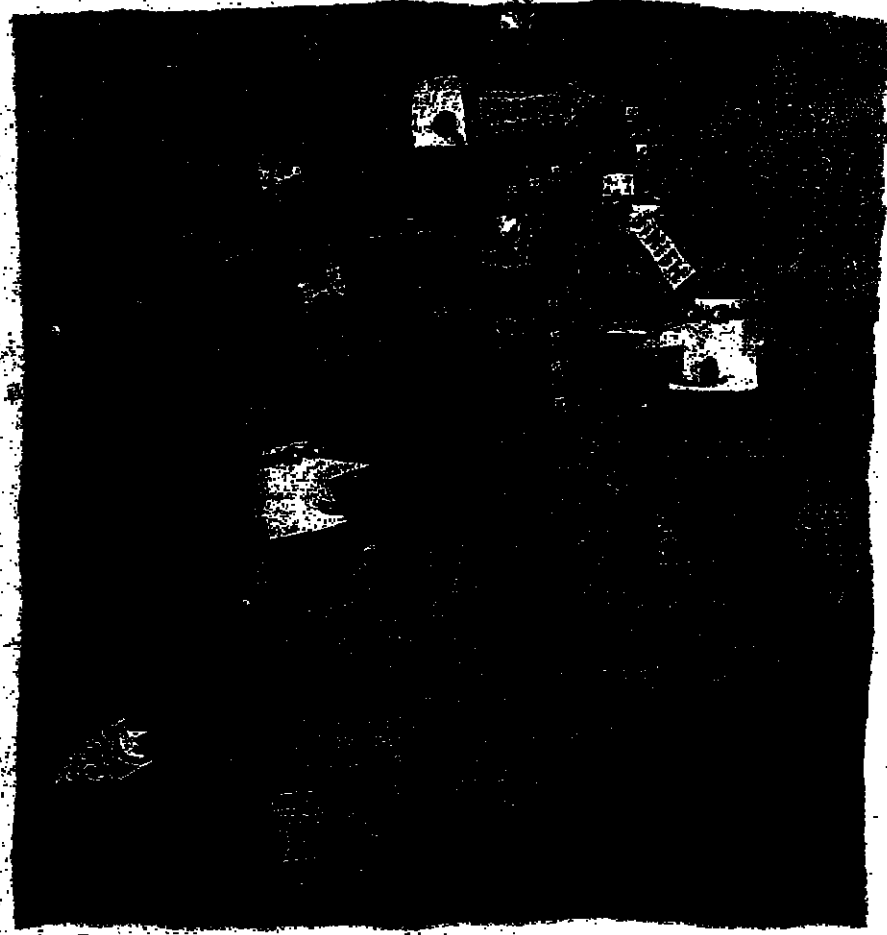
vides a short-cut back to Worth Matravers. Continuing along the coastal path, the more determined walker is rewarded with some stunning views of wild cliffs and wooded valleys; an enormous and unblemished landscape as fine as any to be seen on the south coast. The closer prospect is rather less appealing; a steep descent almost to sea level, followed by a weary climb back above 300 feet.

The route back to the village diverges from the coast path just inland from Chapman's Pool, a sheltered bay of clear, still water far beneath the cliffs. At Weston Farm, the path

becomes a tarmac lane leading back to the familiar duck-pond and, far more importantly, to the inn-sign of the Square and Compass.

This pub was once a favourite hang-out of Augustus John and is still defiantly eccentric in both its management and decor. Farmyard fowl peck around the outdoor tables, perching on assorted lengths of rope and driftwood that fall somewhere between installation art, an adventure playground and the collection of a ship-wrecked sailor. Indoors, there is nothing so newfangled as a bar; just a serving hatch and rooms the colour of tobacco, with benches round the walls. The landlord, Charlie Newman, is the fourth generation of his family to run the Square and Compass and shows no inclination to alter its atmosphere. Food is very basic, but the homemade pasties are delicious and the beer beyond all criticism. With a view across the valley to the sparkling sea beyond, it is a memorable destination for a walk.

Hamish Scott



Worth Matravers is signposted from A351 between Corfe Castle and Swanage. The car park is to the right of road on entering village.

- From the car park, follow the lane down into village, bearing right at Square and Compass inn.
- Bear left at the duck pond, following the sign to Winspit.
- Twenty yards down the lane, turn left down a drive in front of terraced cottages.
- Follow the footpath sign through a gate into open fields.
- Continue for one mile until you reach Winspit quays.
- Returning, 100 yards from quays, follow waymarked path to St Aldhelm's Head.
- At St Aldhelm's Head, continue along the coastal path for Chapman's Pool. There are easy shortcuts back to Worth both from the headland and the bottom of steep valley.
- Above Chapman's Pool, turn right over the stile on a waymarked path to Renscombe Farm.
- Cross the farm lane and continue on the footpath past Weston Farm to Worth.
- Continue past the duckpond to the Square and Compass (01929 439229).

## Duff Hart-Davis "16,000 letters of objections forced planners to accept their ideas were unpopular"



they are about to make an attempt to gauge grass-roots feeling.

Meanwhile, the most acute local threat is to Cirencester, which is anxiously awaiting a decision by the Environment Minister, John Gummer, on whether or not he will sanction the creation of two non-food retail parks on the outskirts of the town. Mr Gummer has professed his belief that small-town centres should be protected - but has he the power or the guts to put words into practice?

Earlier this year I described my efforts to judge the finals of Gloucestershire's best-kept village competition, the Bledisloe Cup. Well, last weekend I went round with a small official party presenting the prizes, to Highnam, Oddington and Cherington, winners in the large, medium and small divisions. It was a fine, windy day, with everyone in good spirits. Yet at Highnam, between Gloucester and Newent, I was outraged to hear that the village is under severe pressure from the County Council to accommodate dozens, if not hundreds, of new houses, in developments that would wreck the admirably balanced environment created by hard work and imagination. Almost as bad, every 12 hours the B-road which cuts through the edge of the village carries 400 lorries, many of them heading across country to evade the Severn bridges, whose crazy toll system permits drivers to cross free in a westerly direction, and to pay only when they come east.

Highnam, in other words, though judged the best-kept large village in the county, is on the point of being wrecked by inadequate planning controls. Moreover, it is only one among hundreds of rural settlements threatened by house-building on a monstrous scale - because the Government has decreed that Gloucestershire must find room for 53,000 new houses by the year 2011.

Is there any real need for so many new dwellings? Detailed investigation suggests that the figures from the Department of the Environment are seriously flawed. The numbers are merely a projection of trends between 1971 and 1993, and depend heavily on the fact that, during those years, annual migration into the county averaged 2,700. Privately commissioned research has shown that last year the figure was below 2,000, and that, at this rate, only 41,000 new houses may suffice.

The burning question is, how can local planners, who are goaded by developers offering fortunes for building land, be made to acknowledge such truths? With great difficulty, is the short answer. Yet one gleam of light has recently appeared. Opposition to the Gloucestershire County Council's draft structure plan proved so virulent that the document has been withdrawn. Some 1,600 letters of objection forced the planners to acknowledge that their ideas were highly unpopular, and now, for the first time,

they are about to make an attempt to gauge grass-roots feeling. Meanwhile, the most acute local threat is to Cirencester, which is anxiously awaiting a decision by the Environment Minister, John Gummer, on whether or not he will sanction the creation of two non-food retail parks on the outskirts of the town. Mr Gummer has professed his belief that small-town centres should be protected - but has he the power or the guts to put words into practice?

Two facts are clear. One is that locals loathe the idea of retail parks: a petition against the developments was signed by 4,000 people, with not one vote in favour. The other certainty is that the establishment of two parks would deal a deadly blow to traders in the centre of town. Already two new supermarkets on the fringes, a Tesco and a Waitrose, have drawn off much business. Small traders might survive one park, but not - it is generally agreed - two.

According to Peter Stringfellow, proprietor of the Crocodile toy shop and a leader of the opposition, the Cotswold District Council has made "a bloody nonsense" of the whole affair. "When the first application came in, from Bannertown Developments," he says, "Mr Gummer hadn't started to talk about rejuvenating town centres, and the council was minded to approve. When the rival, Kimberley Securities, applied to build on a site slightly closer to the centre, councillors were marginally in favour of that. In fact they don't want either." The result has been a public inquiry, with the decision referred to the minister.

I find it astonishing that councillors could have given the proposals any encouragement whatsoever. Have they not visited Stroud, whose centre is now a wasteland of boarded-up shops? Have they not seen how the middle of Tewkesbury has been gutted by out-of-town development?

Come on, minister! Even if it is one of the last constructive decisions you make in the present Parliament, for heaven's sake take a tough line and give the lie to the north-country verse which ends: "And a toothless ewe is a gummer."

## Ploughing the competition

Richard D North follows the field from horse to tractor

There is something so lyrical and moving about the business of ploughing - the sod-polished plough cleaving the fructifying earth - that it's good to note that there was a fine, worldly reason for the formation of the Trumpet Ploughing Match in 1944. According to Douglas Probert, retiring president of the Trumpet and District Agricultural Society (the Trumpet is a famous pub and crossroads outside Ledbury in Herefordshire): "The war was in full swing. Petrol was rationed, so you couldn't go anywhere for a social occasion. But you were entitled to go to a ploughing match - that was all right. You could legitimately go to that sort of thing". There was also the natural fierce competitiveness of young people - even those involved in what looks a quiet and not obviously sporty business such as farming.

The oddest thing about the modern ploughing match, such as the Trumpet's held last Thursday or the National Championships which will be held today and tomorrow, is that they look now just as they

must have done during and after the war. There is, of course, the same array of tents, and the buildings of the host farm may well not have changed much. The matter of old maces, and serviceable tweeds and wellies is more or less an unchanging one. But what no one could have predicted is that horses have made a comeback for competition purposes.

Stan Hill, now 76, has ploughed at nearly every Trumpet match, and won quite a few (he took a third in 1944, but had progressed to a first in 1952). He doesn't plough now, but judges others instead, as he did on Thursday. He was one of the pioneers of a way of getting a living in the country which is now very common for the young of farming families; after the war he bought the best tractor he could afford and put himself to work as a contractor. He had begun on horses, of course. "I worked with them until about 1938. I had worked with them since I was eight, and by the time I was 14, I could do any work with horses," he says.

Mr Hill always enjoyed his tractor, and thinks he's had a brilliantly interesting life. "Mowing, reaping, ploughing, planting, wood cutting - that was my year, always varied." And the work getting faster and faster. As tractors finally outnumbered horses in the Fifties, they also got bigger: in 1944, a decent tractor was 25 horsepower, in 1984 it was 80 horsepower, and nowadays giants of 120 horsepower are common.

Mr Probert points out that that a 12-acre field behind his

house at Shucknall near Ledbury is now "ploughed, worked and planted by a tractor in a day; a Standard Fordson tractor would take four days just to plough it, and you'd want good going for that." The Fordson itself was twice as fast at least as a team of horses. No wonder Dolly and Boxer were off to the knacker's. No wonder, either, as Stan Hill reminds us, that he and his sort could only feed a beleaguered nation with the help of plenty of mechanisation. Sometime in the late Seventies, many of the older

ploughmen realised they were missing the old ways, and began the current vogue for vintage ploughing. It has lured back to the tractor seat some men long used to bossing others from the wheel of a four-by-four.

Ploughing championships This weekend: 46th National Ploughing Championship, Swinfield, near Gooles, Yorkshire (on the A161 between Gooles and Crowle); £4 per person per day; £1 for OAPs and children. 19 October: Liskeard, Cornwall; East Grinstead, W Sussex; Tetbury, Gloucestershire. 19-20 October: Alnwick, Northumberland. 20 October: Brigg, Lincolnshire; Dunfries, Cheshire; Derbyshire; 26 October: Deeping St Nicholas, Peterborough; Alton, Hampshire. 2 November: Wakefield, Yorkshire. 3 November: Wetherby, N Yorkshire; 9 November: Rotherham, S Yorkshire; 30 November: Montrose, Aberdeenshire. For more details contact The Society of Ploughmen, 01302 852469



## THE INDEPENDENT

Water Butt & free Rainsaver - only £29.95

After the water shortages of the summer, gardeners should take advantage of the autumn rains and start collecting rainwater now.

This 45-gallon water butt is an attractive and cost-efficient method of storing rainwater for use in the garden, all year round. It is finished in green with a black lid and is moulded from durable recycled plastic. The butt is resistant to both frost and to distortion from the summer's heat.

The water butt is on offer to readers for just £29.95, carriage included, and comes with a FREE Rainsaver (worth £7.95). This ingenious device fits to a round or square 2½ inch downpipe and ensures that the butt is automatically topped-up without overflowing. For those who have a butt, the rainsaver may be ordered on its own for just £7.95 (inc. P + P).

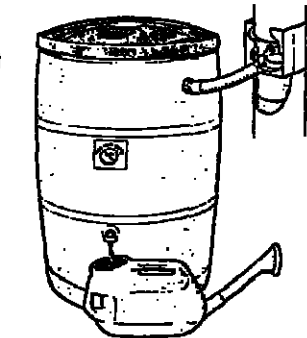
Supplied with a 12-month guarantee, the butt has a draw-off tap and a built in lid. It measures 36 in. high and has a 23 in. diameter and is available for just £29.95 including carriage.

HOW TO ORDER Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order, NO CASH please to: THE INDEPENDENT WATER BUTT OFFER (IND715) P.O. BOX 222, CHATHAM, KENT, ME4 4FE.

For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01634 401888 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Telephone 01634 401888 for all enquiries.

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 20 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Buy in England 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc. Buy in Northern Ireland 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc. Buy in Scotland 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc. Buy in Wales 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc.



Please send me: Water Butt & free Rainsaver @ £29.95 each. Rainsaver only @ £7.95 each.

I enclose a crossed cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ (additions on ticks) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING (IND715) or debit my Access/Visa account by this amount. My card number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Supply Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: THE INDEPENDENT WATER BUTT OFFER (IND715), P.O. BOX 222, CHATHAM, KENT, ME4 4FE.

Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing Plc. or unauthorised distribution by Newspaper Publishing Plc. ☐

Buy in England 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc. Buy in Northern Ireland 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc. Buy in Scotland 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc. Buy in Wales 1996/97 Newspaper Publishing plc.

# money & homes

Mortgages...20  
Jo Davis...24  
Motoring...26  
Shopping...26

## The buying game

The house market is looking buoyant, says Penny Jackson

There is good news for those people wondering why all the activity in the property market stops short of their front door. Houses are selling faster than at any time in the past year, say Black Horse Agencies. Confidence in the market has meant buyers are acting more decisively, and first-time buyers are coming on to the market as they see prices rising. One in four homes sells in six weeks or less, according to Black Horse Agencies' Home Report, published this week. It takes an average of 16 weeks for a property to find a buyer, an improvement of five weeks since June.

The report looks at the trends, region by region, of the residential property market. It does, however, exclude most of London, as well as Scotland and Wales where Black Horse has no branches. The survey looks into such areas as the number of viewers per property, how close the sale price is to the asking price, breakdown of buyers, how much first-time buyers pay, and the speed of sale from first instruction to an agreed price. There is a connection between categories. The fastest selling areas will be most likely to see sellers getting all (or a figure closest to) the asking price.

In the South-east, which accounts for most of the top 10 "hot spots", properties sell at 95 per cent of the asking price. Meanwhile, in the slower North-west, with its average 23-week sale, homes sell at 91 per cent of the full price.

A year ago, as a national average, a £100,000 property would have sold for £92,000, while today it would be sold for £94,000. Black Horse sees this increase as the strongest indicator yet that prices are stable. But prices have to be pitched sensibly, says Alan Gottschalk, East Midlands regional director. Anyone selling a home with an obvious drawback may well have to lower their sights. "In Chelmsford, for example, we have two identical flats for sale. One sold quickly, the other is difficult because it backs on to a noisy road." And he said that in Coventry a family house with an extension was proving much harder to sell than its smaller counterpart in the same street, because people are put off by the poor state of the house next door. "Buyers are still cautious. They know what they should be paying."

So how is the market working in practice in one of the Black Horse hot spots? David Freeman lives in Hedge End, near Southampton, a fast-selling area with new developments. He has just put his one-bedroom, Bovis home on the market, and a sale was agreed within a day. In turn, he found a house he liked in 12 hours. In less than a week he had bought and sold. "I put my house on at £42,950, undercutting others by a thousand, and sold it for £41,000. But it is only recently that property has started to sell well here."

Caroline Helps, also from Hedge End, is well aware of a sudden upturn. She and her husband put their three-bedroom semi, built seven years ago, on the market in May. Nothing happened until the beginning of this month when it was taken on by Black Horse. "We sold it almost the next day. We put it on at £66,250 and accepted £65,000, which is what we wanted."

An acute shortage of good property is the chief complaint of agents across the country, and a breakdown of buyers in the home report goes some way towards explaining this. In the survey, 65 per cent of all purchasers have nothing to sell. The majority are first-time buyers, about a tenth are stepping back into the market after renting or staying with family and friends and a small number are buying for investment.

First-time buyers now tend to skip a rung of the property ladder. Easy mortgage terms and a market which has not returned to 1988 levels, means they are going straight for a house.

In Plymouth, one of the 10 hot spots, developers are even converting flats back into single houses. "Flats sell at auction for under £10,000. Nearly everyone can afford a small terrace house here," says Edward Heaton of Stratton Creber. "We have never had such a good year as this. We are even selling what I call the old dogs. But we are desperately low on stocks."



## Who's been sleeping in my bed?

If you've ever wanted to know who used to live in your house, help is at hand. By Sophia Chauchard-Stuart

Would you like to find out the history of your home? You may have met the people that sold it to you but what about the people who lived there 50 years ago, or the Victorian owners who first landscaped the garden? Some design devotees might want to know why the hallway was extended or when the attic was converted. Having a detailed history of your property might also add to its value, especially if you uncover fascinating facts of historical significance.

Penny Olsen, who owns the Research Workshop, spends her time answering these questions. To her business clients, Olsen is a historical architectural researcher; others call her the house detective.

Olsen became interested in the history of buildings after her children had grown up. She embarked on an Open University course in

architecture. The Conran group saw Olsen's thesis on the Michelin Building and used her work as part of their planning application for the Bibendum restaurant. Olsen was encouraged by this. "I thought, well, if the Conrans think my work is useful, maybe other people will, too."

She sent out dozens of letters to property developers and got two jobs immediately, to research one site in the City of London, another in Reading, for brochures of the area.

When the property development market went into a slump during the recession, Olsen changed tack and targeted her work more at private individuals who wanted to know more about their family home. She now numbers famous film and television personalities among her clients as well as members of the aristocracy. "I love what I do. My

work is like a jigsaw, piecing together information, bit by bit, until I have the whole picture."

Olsen builds up her historical jigsaw using maps of the area from a variety of different periods, planning applications, land tax assessments and even drainage records. Structural and interior design details help her plot the course of the property's development while rate books, cross-referenced with census returns, electoral registers and marriage records give clues of previous residents.

"Sometimes clients just want a list of names of people who have lived in the house through the years or a simple report of its historical backgrounds. Other people want a full-blown story, beautifully presented. I often work to a budget and a lot of my work for private customers is in producing surprise gifts for family members."

Each project takes up to six months; prices range between £250 and £3,000 and are presented as either a slim sheaf of papers between simple card or full leather-bound book, complete with pictures of previous residents, maps of the area and original elevation plans of the property at various stages.

"Sometimes the information is quite easy to find. But I had one building that was in a remote area and I wasn't sure I would be able to establish much. However, with a few days of research I found out that the building had been owned by Balliol College, so a wonderful archive existed."

One set of clients was delighted to find out that their house was once used as a flagellation brothel. Other stories are not so uplifting. She decided not tell one set of owners that their home was built on a plague pit.

Visitors' books can also be a rich source of history. Olsen unearthed one that the Kray twins signed on their regular tea-time visits to the property. Olsen's own visitors' book is signed by Elizabeth Taylor and Liberace. Both were customers at the chemist shop she and her husband owned on the King's Road during the Sixties.

Local archives and local people play a great part in her work. Older people's memories of events, scandals and personalities provide a sense of how the area grew in a way that statistics cannot.

Ironically, she has never had time to research the houses she has lived in. "The owners of our old house have asked me to look into the history of the property for them. I can't wait to see what I find."

The Research Workshop 0171-935 2360



# Divide and prosper

Flats are a growing market, says Rosalind Russell

The second Baron Carrington had a reputation for eccentricity. When he took a lease on Gayhurst House, an imposing country mansion near Newport Pagnell, he provided his male servants with a remarkable five-seater lavatory in a circular building behind the house, surrounded by a carved figure of Cerberus, the three-headed dog. He lived in style with his wife, five children, a chaplain and 31 servants. Now 26 households share Gayhurst - split up into flats and houses in the Seventies - and with its ornate mullioned windows, formal gardens and garages, it is far superior to other converted flats.

A one-bedroom apartment in Gayhurst will cost £97,500, say agents GA, for the 100 years remaining on the 120-year lease.

Buying a leasehold flat is now less of a lottery, thanks to the new changes to the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987. Initially hailed as the leaseholders' charter, the Act was found to be shot through with holes. While it gave tenants the right to first refusal of their freehold, the freeholder didn't face a penalty if he thumbed his nose at the Act. Now he does.

A few lunatic freeholders and residents who quibble about their share of the roof repairs will always be with us. And anyone considering buying a flat should still take particular interest in the efficiency of the managing agents. But flats still have advantages over houses for young professionals, older people trading down from an expensive house, or as a rental investment. While lenders won't generally offer a mortgage on an ex-council tower block or flats above shops, the rest of the flat sales market is enjoying a mild boom. Especially in Birmingham and in London where there is busy regeneration in areas like Bermondsey, Clerkenwell and Soho.

Paying £300,000 for a flat in the centre of Birmingham - albeit a penthouse - might have seemed optimistic a couple of

years ago. But that's the price being asked on one of the flats soon to be completed by Crosby Homes next to Birmingham Symphony Hall. Symphony Court, with octagonal domed towers and private terraces overlooking the canal, residents' gym, underground parking and high security, has drawn buyers back to the city centre.

John and Vanessa Clarke sold a house in Walsall and bought a two-bedroom flat in the block, so they could be near their daughter Louise, 16, who will be studying in the city. Others buyers are finding the flats an attractive investment, with rentals on a two bedroom apartment achieving a far higher percentage yield than anything currently offered by banks or building societies. For Crosby the development has proved one of their most successful. With 112 apartments sold and only 30 left to sell, asking more than a quarter of a million for a penthouse doesn't seem so daft.

In London, Strutt & Parker is selling a one-bedroom, second floor flat above Terence Conran's Mezzo restaurant in Soho for £310,000. In suburban Putney, that would buy a three-bedroom house, but a much longer commute to work.

Says Charles Peetless of Winkworth's West End office: "Buyers in Soho and Covent Garden tend to be ABC1, mid-thirties, affluent, from bankers to creative. Fitzrovia is the best value for money, being quieter than Covent Garden but having more life than Bloomsbury. It's not a family area, which is something our business reflects... we don't open on Saturdays."

Prices are sufficiently buoyant for Winkworth to have recently sold a one-bedroom flat, directly opposite a 24-hour shelter for the homeless, for £150,000. A one bedroom, fourth-floor walk-up in King Street, Covent Garden has just sold for £185,000. In the three weeks between compiling the latest copy of the Winkworth property guide and it hitting the stands in

branches, the West End office has sold everything on their page bar two flats.

"Look for the well-run blocks," says Peetless. "Bloomsbury's Bedford Court Mansions is one of the best because it's part freehold. Ridgmont Gardens where a four-bedroom flat will cost around £265,000, is also very popular. Of the new developments," says Peetless, "the ones which are selling fastest feature contemporary design, wooden floors and chrome fittings." It's a perfect description of a re-developed printing works at one Duffield Avenue, near Moorgate tube station.

Of the eight apartments put on the market a fortnight ago, only three are unsold. Architect/developer Roger Black has aimed at style-conscious buyers likely to be impressed by the German column radiators, ash flooring and "pod" bathrooms. Prices range from £175,000 to £215,000; the most expensive has a timber-deck roof terrace with views over the City. Selling agent is Hurford Salvi Carr.

Actor Alzei Sayle is leading the way in Bermondsey, buying into the new Tanners Yard apartments, a few minutes from Tower Bridge and close to where the new Jubilee Line extension will run. More than half have been sold or reserved in the old warehouse building. The developers say their buy profile is young, upwardly mobile professionals. Prices range from £139,500 to £199,950.

Shad Thames, a previously unloved area south of Tower Bridge, is also being talked up. A former tea and coffee warehouse in Boss Street is being turned into 109 flats, due to be ready for Christmas.

Tom Marshall of selling agent Chutons says: "The refurbishment includes glass lifts, glass viewing platform with panoramic views." More sandblasted brickwork - the woodchip of the Nineties - cast-iron columns, wooden floors and industrial-height windows.



Top: Docklands apartments made for young professionals. Above: a Roger Black interior, for the style conscious

Tel: 0171 293 2222

## property • residential

Fax: 0171 293 2501

**London Property**

**LOFTS FOR SALE**  
SHELL FINISH  
SBS  
SUNROOM  
REAL LOFTS  
0171 937 3878

**INDEPENDENT**  
Just north of The City in the heart of a cons. area, a spacious 5 bed family house currently being built to a high spec. with all the elegance of a Victorian home. Select your own finishes.  
Completion due March 1997.  
£570,000 F/H (NHBC)  
0171 704 2880

**Sussex**

**QUALITY NEW DETACHED CHALET & BUNGALOWS**  
on the Sussex Coast  
£107,500 - £154,950  
Selling from 1000  
01323 893007

**1 New Inn Square, EC2**  
(Off Battersea Park)  
Stunning Converted Edwardian Printing Works  
34 Lots  
West Midlands, Shropshire, Staffs, Leicestershire, Dyfed, Herts, Dorset, Beds, Essex and Kent

**30th October - NEC, Birmingham - 0839 772285**  
34 Lots  
West Midlands, Shropshire, Staffs, Leicestershire, Dyfed, Herts, Dorset, Beds, Essex and Kent

**NORTHERN**  
131 Lots  
Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancs, Chyrd, Cheshire, Cumbria, Cleveland, Yorkshire and Graysend

**Live/work shell flat apartments (4 planned)**  
• 1,050 - 2,520 sq ft  
• detached penthouse  
• 8 person fit  
• telephone, TV, cable  
• TVE ceiling height  
• superb light

**LAUNCH VIEWING**  
Sat/Sun 12/13 OCT 11am to 4pm  
**Stirling Ackroyd**  
0171 251 0770

**Country Property**

**BRATED COURT • BRATED • KENT**

**Green PEACE**  
Prices from £214,500

• 2 AND 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS UNIQUELY AND BEAUTIFULLY LOCATED IN THE 45 ACRE GROUNDS OF A GRADE I LISTED MANSION  
• EASY ACCESS TO SEVENOAKS, M25 MOTORWAY, HEATHROW AND GATWICK AIRPORTS  
• SECURITY FEATURES FOR ADDED PEACE OF MIND INCLUDING REMOTELY CONTROLLED ACCESS GATES

Discover this peaceful lifestyle at our showhome, open Saturdays and Sundays from 10.30 - 4.30, telephone 01899 563262 or contact our agent, Savills, on 01753 635551.

Developments also at Reigate, Shere, Albury and Haslemere

**Auctions**

**General Accident Auctions**  
Mainly By Order of The Mortgagees Including the Halifax Building Society  
Houses, Flats, Land and Commercial Premises

**MIDLANDS**  
29th October - NEC, Birmingham - 0839 772285  
34 Lots  
West Midlands, Shropshire, Staffs, Leicestershire, Dyfed, Herts, Dorset, Beds, Essex and Kent

**NORTHERN**  
30th October - Haydock Park Racecourse - 0839 772286  
131 Lots  
Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancs, Chyrd, Cheshire, Cumbria, Cleveland, Yorkshire and Graysend

**East Anglia**

**BUNGAY, SUFFOLK**  
Unusual Period home with position, garden with footbridge over River Waveney, rural views, 4.5 beds, stable.  
£122,500  
Tel: 01986 893986

**New Homes**

**BUILDING QUALITY HOMES IN PRIME LOCATIONS**

**BRADFIELD**  
4 bed courtyard homes from £205,000 TEL (01734) 745189

**IFOLD NR CRANLEIGH**  
5 bed homes from £229,950 TEL (01483) 248822

**CUCKFIELD**  
4 bed homes from £139,950 TEL (01444) 416657

**BOXGROVE CHICHESTER**  
3, 4 & 5 homes beds from £95,950 - £210,000 TEL (01243) 532636

**WEST END WOKING**  
4 bed homes from £154,950 TEL (01483) 799995

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**HARPENDEN**  
2 bed homes from £243,500 TEL (01823) 765766

**KENTS HILL MILTON KEYNES**  
4 bed homes & 3 bed bungalows from £93,500 - £139,950 TEL (01908) 679148

**NORTHAMPTON**  
3 & 4 bed homes from £62,950 - £109,950 TEL (01604) 259410

**COLLINGTON PARK NORTHAMPTON**  
4 & 5 bed homes from £185,000 TEL (01604) 675773

**TEMPLE COWLEY OXFORD**  
1 bed spec., 3 & 4 bed homes from £54,350 - £125,500 TEL (01865) 395473

**THE CEDARS WESTONING**  
3 & 4 bed det. homes from £92,500 - £141,500 TEL (01525) 719540

**OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

**COLBY ISLE OF MAN**  
3 bed bungalows & 4 bed det. homes from £109,950 - £134,950 TEL (01624) 833903

**DOUGLAS ISLE OF MAN**  
2 bed spec & 3 bed townhouse prices from £39,950 TEL (01624) 643160

**ONCHAN ISLE OF MAN**  
3 bed det. bungalow price £79,950 TEL (01624) 623480

**PAIGHTON DEVON**  
3 bed semi-det. home price £69,950 4 bed det. homes prices from £79,950 TEL (01803) 525665

**PLYMPTON DEVON**  
3 bed link det. homes from £69,950 4 bed det. homes prices from £89,950 TEL (01803) 525665

**OBIDOS LAGOON PORTUGAL**  
prices on application TEL (01803) 525665

**BEES ELSTOW**  
2, 3 & 4 bed det. homes TEL (01727) 84044

**HERTS GOFFS OAK**  
3 bed det. homes TEL (01727) 84044  
BEES CADDINGTON  
2, 3 & 4 bed homes TEL (01727) 84044

**FREEPHONE SALES 0500 730 722**  
MARTIN GRANT HOMES LTD GRANT HOUSE, 100000 HANOVER, DORSET, BUNY 1945 620 TEL (01306) 730022

**SHOWHOME OPEN 10AM - 5PM DAILY**

**North Grant Homes**  
VISIT OUR SHOW/VIEWHOMES  
Please contact us if you are going to view

**FREEPHONE SALES 0500 730 733**  
MARTIN GRANT HOMES LTD CATHEDRAL HOUSE, STALABANE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NN16 8AA TEL (01727) 84044

**VIEWHOME OPEN 10AM - 6PM SAT & SUN**

To advertise in this section please telephone the Property Team on 0171 293 2302/2343.

Buying a  
home  
where the  
art is

## Geoffrey Pilgrim finds affordable opulence in the north of Italy

**A**ccording to a recent sampling of advertising responses, 4 per cent of British families who are planning to own a home abroad prefer Italy. This compares with 20 per cent for France and almost 40 per cent for Spain and its islands.

Pull these statistics apart and you find that Francophiles are split between those attracted to rural peace, lively ski resorts, or the glint of sun up the Med. Spanish prospects divide geographically along those warm costas which are easily reached by plane, and the Canaries and the Balearics; and buyers subdivide socially into normal human beings and golfers.

British buyers of homes in Italy have a very different profile. They're not interested in ski property. They don't need to see the Mediterranean (or the Adriatic). Half their visits are made by car rather than by plane. A nearby golf course is an irrelevance. Usually, the older the property the better they like it. Their spending capacity ranges from £25,000 to £5m. Most are covert, or overt, intellectuals and art lovers. Some are politicians.

Agents describe British buyers as a varied bunch. Steve Emmett of Brian French says that most of his clients are "media people". Linda Trevella of Cosa Trevella says that most of hers are lawyers. Both are clear that they do not want to form any kind of club for Brits - particularly as they come here looking for a very different lifestyle.

An abundance of things which look good, sound good and taste good are the main attractions. Outstanding architec-

## Buying in Italy

**Never take a DIY approach to property purchase.**

**Deal with experienced agents and lawyers and don't second-guess advice, particularly on stated values and taxes.**

Consent to build or extend in Italy lasts for a specific period. Renew it if you can't perform in time. In rural areas most people take a relaxed attitude to wandering through private property. Get possible rights of way checked before signing your Deed of Transfer.

ture, sculpture and painting; ancient farms built with an eye for site, form and materials; landscape that seems to have been carefully planned for maximum effect. The sound of music is everywhere, too; Italians invented opera – and most small towns still have their own street bands. And food and drink are not fuel but essentials of the art of family life.

Properties reach the market from time to time, at prices you would expect for a habitable work of art.

But what's on offer at around £100,000, including purchase costs? Brian French is offering a four-storey, pink stucco farmhouse in the centre of Perugia, close to the university, with shutters, beamed

ceilings and other original features. It has two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, two living rooms, mod cons, and views over medieval rooftops and streets.

In Liguria, Cosa Trevella has a two-bedroom village house, 20 minutes from the sea, under offer. It is fully restored, with lots of marble in the bathroom, walk-in

wardrobes and a loggia overlooking olive groves. Half that distance from the Med they also have an olive mill, needing some work, in three-quarters of an acre. Both properties are an hour's drive from Nice airport, a short hop across the border.

Cosa Trevella also handles property around the northern lakes. For less than

£100,000 they are offering a fully furnished, luxury two-bedroom apartment. It comes with use of both an indoor and outdoor pool, parking, and views of Lake Como and the mountains.

Brian French & Co 0171-7358244; Cosi  
Trevella 01322 61988

# 'Five million borrowers are paying more than they need'

Although the mortgage market may be twitchy on election eve, there are still easy savings to be made by shopping around, writes Clifford German

**E**ddie George may be fretting openly about the need to raise interest rates, but there is still a wide range of special offers around, including fixed rates for up to 10 years, and a variety of discounts and cashbacks for new borrowers and existing borrowers looking to switch lenders. According to independent advisers Berkeley Financial Planning, five million borrowers are still paying more than they need. Most simply do not realise the opportunities or advantages open to virtually all new borrowers and existing borrowers not trapped by negative equity.

Independent mortgage adviser John Charcol has just come out with a fixed rate of 6.99 per cent guaranteed for five years on up to 90 per cent of the property valuation. Even allowing for a hefty completion fee of £700 - which can be added to the loan but will discourage

**some small borrowers – John Charcol's offer will undercut the previous market leader, Northern Rock, which charges 7.49 per cent and a £295 arrangement fee.**

John Charcol's penalty for redeeming the loan within six years is also slightly less Draconian, at six months' interest compared with Northern Rock's 5 per cent penalty, for borrowers who want out of the deal over the same timescale.

Brokers London & Country have also teamed up with National Counties Building Society to launch an Election Choice mortgage, which combines a 3 per cent discount on the standard variable rate (which is currently 6.99 per cent) for the next nine months with the option at that time to take a further discount of 1 per cent below the standard variable rate for the following four years if the interest rate outlook still

seems set fair, or to lock into a fixed rate of 7.99 per cent guaranteed until January 2002. The maximum advance is 70 per cent of the property valuation, there is a £295 completion fee and a six-month interest rate penalty for early redemption, although the loan is portable.

As variable mortgage rates approach the low point of the cycle, and the discounts on variable rates start to shrink, the relative attractions of fixed-rate mortgages compared with variable rates are beginning to increase again.

The general view is that the downward trend in variable rates must have gone almost as far as it can in this stage of the economic cycle, even if the Chancellor does try to squeeze one more quarter-point drop in base rates next month to make up for a dearth of tax cuts. Interest rates in the United States are also poised to rise once the Presidential

election is out of the way, with inevitable knock-on effects in the UK.

For borrowers who do still think that discounts upfront are worth more than a fixed rate, Leeds & Holbeck is offering mortgages with discounts of 1.25 per cent for the next three years off its standard variable rate, which is currently 6.99 per cent. Valuation fees will also be refunded if the loan is completed before the end of the year but the discount will be reclaimed in full if the mortgage is paid off within the first four years.

It is anyone's guess what the effect of the next UK election will be on interest rates, but it is a fact that interest rates went up after the 1979, 1983 and 1987 elections, and they only came down after the 1992 election because the pound fell out of the ERM.

A new survey by Merrill Lynch shows 89 per cent of fund managers expect

base rates will be higher this time next year and past evidence suggests that rates will rise for two to three years when they do start to move.

The European single currency is also beginning to cast a shadow over interest rates, and one which will not please the Eurosceptics. Whatever you think about the principle of a European single currency it is generally accepted that UK rates will have to be higher outside the currency union than they would be inside, and the chances of the UK making a serious attempt to get inside seems to get dimmer by the day, regardless of who wins the general election.

The yield on Spanish government stock maturing in 10 years' time dipped below the equivalent UK government stock this week, not because the Spanish economy is in better shape than the UK economy, which it is not, but sim-

ply because the money markets think Spain is making a genuine effort to qualify for a single currency, while the UK is not.


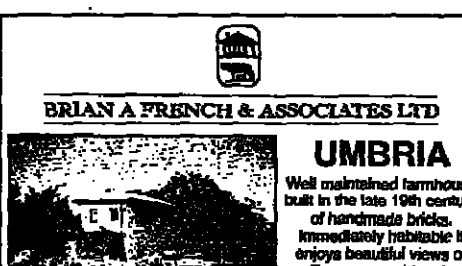
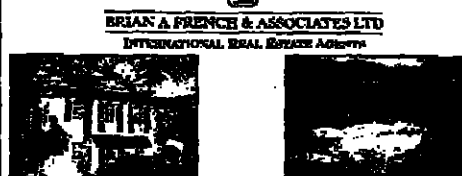

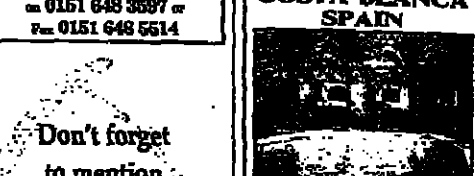
As John Anderson, head of the fixed interest department at pension specialists National Provident Institution (NPI), points out, yields on all European government stocks have been coming down, but while UK and German rates have been creeping, other countries racing to qualify for the single currency have been romping down, narrowing the gap between the highest and lowest rates and incidentally creating a vicious circle by reducing the interest rate burden on their economies.

Borrowers wanting details can call John Charcol on (0800-718191, London & Country Mortgages on (0800-373300), and Berkeley Financial Planning on 01203-555240.

Tel: 0171 293 2222

**property • residential**

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Overseas Property	Overseas Property	Overseas Property	Overseas Property	Overseas Property
<p><b>LUXURY ALGARVE PROPERTIES FOR SALE</b></p>  <p>Come and discover Alto Golf &amp; Country Club – one of the most luxurious property developments on the Algarve coast. Built by Mowlem, the resort combines the highest quality construction with classical Algarvian design and has its own exclusive 18 hole championship golf course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luxury 1/2/3 bed apartments from £100k to £150k</li> <li>• Luxury 2/3/4 bed villas from £200k to £500k</li> <li>• Golf &amp; sea views • 18 hole golf course</li> <li>• Fitness &amp; leisure centre • Floodlit tennis courts</li> <li>• A la carte restaurant • Tropical gardens &amp; waterfalls</li> <li>• Swimming pools • Guaranteed rental income</li> <li>• Private security • Viewing weekends arranged</li> </ul> <p>For a brochure tel: 01757 242299 fax: 01757 234083</p> <p><b>ALTO GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</b></p> <p><b>MOWLEM</b></p> <p>e-mail: alalto@almo.com.pt Internet: http://www.almo.com.pt/en/uk/uk</p>	<p><b>BRIAN A FRENCH &amp; ASSOCIATES LTD</b></p>  <p><b>UMBRIA</b></p> <p>Well maintained farmhouse built in the late 19th century of handmade bricks. Immediately habitable it enjoys beautiful views of rolling countryside. Just under an acre of land.</p> <p>Price: €118,000</p> <p>22-28 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TJ Tel: 0171 735 8244 Fax: 0171 735 8248</p> <p>FORDAX Member</p>	<p><b>ESTABLISHED ON THE COSTA BLANCA FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>NORTH OF ALICANTE</b></p> <p>3 Beds, 2 Bath Townhouse with Roof Terrace and Garden, 50 Yards from Sea. Fully Furnished, on complex with Pool, Shops, Gardens £29,950</p> <p><b>NORTH OF ALICANTE</b></p> <p>2 Bedroom Bungalow, Fully Furnished. Close to all amenities £24,900</p> <p>many more available from £160,000 to £15,000</p> <p><b>WRIGHTS</b></p> <p>40 DOUGHTY ST. LONDON WC1: 0171 404 0548</p>	<p><b>LAKE COMO</b></p> <p>3/4 bedrooms, fully furnished apt. Beautiful views of lake &amp; mountains. Large balcony &amp; terrace. Pool &amp; tennis. Exclusive complex near Meruglio. \$399,000 approx.</p> <p><b>CASA TRANSLA</b></p> <p>01322 660988 Fax: 667206</p> <hr/> <p><b>MARBELLA TO ESTEFONA</b></p> <p>Over 1000 resale properties for sale on this superb stretch of coastline, from £20,000 to over £2 million.</p> <p>Free call <b>SWAN INTERNATIONAL</b></p> <p>on 0151 648 3697 or Tel: 0151 648 5614</p>	<p><b>BUYING ABROAD?</b></p> <p>Over 50 top Agents and Developers from Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, Crete, Florida and the USA will be displaying their properties on:</p> <p>The Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1 Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 11, 12, 13, 1995 Friday 1200-1800 Sat/Sun 1030-1700</p> <p>— THE — <b>INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY SHOW</b></p> <p>FREE Admission <span style="float:right">0171 735 8184</span></p>
	<p><b>BRIAN A FRENCH &amp; ASSOCIATES LTD</b></p> <p>INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE AGENTS</p>  <p><b>Tuscany</b></p> <p>Delightful, spacious and airy 17th Century country residence with magnificent views towards Lucca. Plus airport 20mins; Pistoia 40mins. Lush gardens, vines, olive, swimming pool and custodian's residence. Full details and prices on application.</p> <p>22-28 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TJ. Tel: 0171 735 8244</p>	<p><b>ARCACHON SOUTH WEST FRANCE</b></p>  <p>Luxury equipped MODERN VILLA 12 x 12 m plot of freehold land, decking and steps. Separate security with electricity supply. Sand dunes, playground, tennis, swimming, hot tubs, internet, lighting. Situated among oaks and pines. Site rich in amenities.</p> <p>Price: \$35,000 Telephone: 01566 629895</p>	<p><b>DENIA COSTA BLANCA SPAIN</b></p>  <p>Healthy living, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, gardens, swimming pool, kitchen, lounge, dining room, terrace. Close to beach and town. 1 hour Alicante airport. Full colour brochure available.</p> <p>£71,000 Tel/Fax Paul Edwards on 01437 728350</p>	<p><b>Cottage In Portugal</b></p> <p>Rebuilt for quick sale. Approx. 200sqm. Built with local stone. Beach and golf 15 minutes. Situated between the towns of Lagos and Sagres. 4 minutes from the beach. 15 minutes from the airport. Free delivery to the door. The cottage was built in 1980 and is in excellent condition. It has a swimming pool, a covered terrace, a barbecue, a sun lounger, a hammock, a table and chairs, a garden, a lawn, a driveway, a garage, a carport, a parking space, a storage shed, a toolshed, a workshop, a laundry room, a bathroom, a kitchen, a living room, a bedroom, a study, a office, a library, a music room, a playroom, a games room, a hobby room, a craft room, a sewing room, a knitting room, a quilting room, a pottery room, a woodworkshop, a metalworkshop, a leatherworking room, a jewelry making room, a candle making room, a soap making room, a perfume making room, a essential oil distillation room, a herb drying rack, a compost heap, a greenhouse, a vegetable patch, a fruit trees, a nut trees, a berry bushes, a rose hedges, a lavender hedge, a boxwood hedge, a yew hedge, a privet hedge, a laurel hedge, a bay leaf bush, a lemon tree, a orange tree, a lime tree, a fig tree, a date palm, a banana tree, a papaya tree, a guava tree, a mango tree, a pineapple tree, a kiwi fruit vine, a passion fruit vine, a grape vine, a raspberry bush, a strawberry patch, a blueberry bush, a blackberry bush, a currant bush, a gooseberry bush, a cherry tree, a plum tree, a peach tree, a nectarine tree, a apricot tree, a almond tree, a walnut tree, a chestnut tree, a hazelnut tree, a pecan tree, a cashew tree, a pistachio tree, a macadamia tree, a brazil nut tree, a coconut tree, a palm tree, a cycad, a fern, a moss, a lichen, a mushroom, a orchid, a cactus, a succulent, a bromeliad, a anthurium, a philodendron, a pothos, a spider plant, a peace lily, a snake plant, a ZZ plant, a money tree, a rubber tree, a ficus, a dracaena, a palmetto, a cordyline, a agave, a yucca, a sansevieria, a clivia, a begonia, a geranium, a petunia, a marigold, a zinnia, a cosmos, a asters, a chrysanthemum, a hydrangea, a lilac, a rhododendron, a camellia, a magnolia, a weeping tree, a topiary, a bonsai, a miniature garden, a rockery, a water feature, a sundial, a birdbath, a bird feeder, a cat house, a dog house, a rabbit hutch, a chicken coop, a pig sty, a horse box, a pony enclosure, a paddock, a field, a meadow, a woodland, a parkland, a estate grounds, a landscaped garden, a formal garden, a informal garden, a wild garden, a natural garden, a organic garden, a permaculture garden, a sustainable garden, a eco garden, a green roof, a vertical garden, a hydroponic system, a aquaponics system, a geothermal heating, a solar panel, a wind turbine, a rainwater harvesting system, a composting toilet, a greywater recycling system, a smart home system, a automation system, a remote control system, a wireless network, a broadband connection, a satellite phone, a GPS system, a weather station, a air conditioning, a central heating, a double glazing, a triple glazing, a energy efficient windows, a energy efficient doors, a energy efficient roof, a energy efficient walls, a energy efficient floors, a energy efficient furniture, a energy efficient appliances, a energy efficient lighting, a energy efficient electronics, a energy efficient toys, a energy efficient clothing, a energy efficient food, a energy efficient drink, a energy efficient transport, a energy efficient communication, a energy efficient entertainment, a energy efficient education, a energy efficient health, a energy efficient lifestyle, a energy efficient attitude, a energy efficient mindset, a energy efficient spirit, a energy efficient soul, a energy efficient heart, a energy efficient mind, a energy efficient body, a energy efficient life, a energy efficient love, a energy efficient happiness, a energy efficient success, a energy efficient wealth, a energy efficient power, a energy efficient influence, a energy efficient legacy, a energy efficient destiny, a energy efficient fate, a energy efficient fortune, a energy efficient luck, a energy efficient chance, a energy efficient opportunity, a energy efficient risk, a energy efficient reward, a energy efficient punishment, a energy efficient consequence, a energy efficient result, a energy efficient outcome, a energy efficient achievement, a energy efficient accomplishment, a energy efficient feat, a energy efficient deed, a energy efficient act, a energy efficient action, a energy efficient behavior, a energy efficient conduct, a energy efficient character, a energy efficient personality, a energy efficient temperament, a energy efficient disposition, a energy efficient mood, a energy efficient emotion, a energy efficient feeling, a energy efficient sensation, a energy efficient perception, a energy efficient cognition, a energy efficient knowledge, a energy efficient wisdom, a energy efficient understanding, a energy efficient insight, a energy efficient realization, a energy efficient enlightenment, a energy efficient liberation, a energy efficient freedom, a energy efficient independence, a energy efficient self-reliance, a energy efficient self-sufficiency, a energy efficient self-mastery, a energy efficient self-control, a energy efficient self-discipline, a energy efficient self-respect, a energy efficient self-love, a energy efficient self-care, a energy efficient self-improvement, a energy efficient self-development, a energy efficient self-realization, a energy efficient self-actualization, a energy efficient self-transcendence, a energy efficient self-enlightenment, a energy efficient self-liberation, a energy efficient self-freedom, a energy efficient self-independence, a energy efficient self-reliance, a energy efficient self-sufficiency, a energy efficient self-mastery, a energy efficient self-control, a energy efficient self-discipline, a energy efficient self-respect, a energy efficient self-love, a energy efficient self-care, a energy efficient self-improvement, a energy efficient self-development, a energy efficient self-realization, a energy efficient self-actualization, a energy efficient self-transcendence, a energy efficient self-enlightenment, a energy efficient self-liberation, a energy efficient self-freedom, a energy efficient self-independence, a energy efficient self-reliance, a energy efficient self-sufficiency, a energy efficient self-mastery, a energy efficient self-control, a energy efficient self-discipline, a energy efficient self-respect, a energy efficient self-love, a energy efficient self-care, a energy efficient self-improvement, a energy efficient self-development, a energy efficient self-realization, a energy efficient self-actualization, a energy efficient self-transcendence, a energy efficient self-enlightenment, a energy efficient self-liberation, a energy efficient self-freedom, a energy efficient self-independence, a energy efficient self-reliance, a energy efficient self-sufficiency, a energy efficient self-mastery, a energy efficient self-control, a energy efficient self-discipline, a energy efficient self-respect, a energy efficient self-love, a energy efficient self-care, a energy efficient self-improvement, a energy efficient self-development, a energy efficient self-realization, a energy efficient self-actualization, a energy efficient self-transcendence, a energy efficient self-enlightenment, a energy efficient self-liberation, a energy efficient self-freedom, a energy efficient self-independence, a energy efficient self-reliance, a energy efficient self-sufficiency, a energy efficient self-mastery, a energy efficient self-control, a energy efficient self-discipline, a energy efficient self-respect, a energy efficient self-love, a energy efficient self-care, a energy efficient self-improvement, a energy efficient self-development, a energy efficient self-realization, a energy efficient self-actualization, a energy efficient self-transcendence, a energy efficient self-enlightenment, a energy efficient self-liberation, a energy efficient self-freedom, a energy efficient self-independence, a energy efficient self-reliance, a energy efficient self-sufficiency, a energy efficient self-mastery, a energy efficient self-control, a energy efficient self-discipline, a energy efficient self-respect, a energy efficient self-love, a energy efficient self-care, a energy efficient self-improvement, a energy efficient self-development, a energy efficient self-realization, a energy efficient self-actualization, a energy efficient self-transcendence, a energy efficient self-enlightenment, a energy efficient self-liberation, a energy efficient self-freedom, a energy efficient self-independence, a energy efficient self-reliance, a energy efficient self-sufficiency, a energy efficient self-mastery, a energy efficient self-control, a energy efficient self-discipline, a energy efficient self-respect, a energy efficient self-love, a energy efficient self-care, a energy efficient self-improvement, a energy efficient self-development, a energy efficient self-realization, a energy efficient</p>



## It's good to be back in control of my cash

Gary Glitter's biggest mistake



**N**owadays I always say to myself "Do you want it, or do you need it?". If I need it, I pursue it. If I just want it, I don't. Compared to the old days in the Seventies, that's a changed animal.

From 1972 till 1976, I couldn't do a thing wrong. I was top of the charts most of the time, and I found myself wondering what to do next. So I decided to buy a mansion, because that's what it says in the Elvis Presley Handbook for Upcoming Rock 'n' Rollers.

I found a lovely property set in the middle of 12 acres. It cost me about £100,000 which, in 1973, was quite a lot of money. It was wonderful. One minute we were in one room in Brixton, and the next we were eating lobster and living in the most beautiful house.

Then I set about saying: "The swimming pool's got to go there. I don't want an Aga, but I want similar to an Aga, so that's got to be made..." We didn't even have

any water, so we had to put in a pipe from the main road, 12 acres away. It was a complete disaster.

I used to have a coach that would regularly go to the Playboy Club and say "Gary's having a party tonight, and you're all welcome". Then they'd all arrive at the house at 3.00 o'clock in the morning.

I was getting plenty of business advice, but I just turned a deaf ear. I did start drinking rather heavily, and I think that was probably the reason. People were trying to tell me - I was employing people to tell me - but I wasn't listening.

It was only when I was in New Zealand, doing The Rocky Horror Show, that I got the notice telling me I was bankrupt. Then a friend of mine invited me out to Australia and we rented a house on the beach.

To my amazement they were still taking my American Express card. It still hadn't really sunk in. I thought it must all be a mistake.

because I'd just sold 18 million records.

When I did eventually go back to England I was offered a tour of cabaret clubs. I told them I belonged in the arenas, but they said clubs were all that was going, so I did the tour. They collected the money, and I was paid a living wage. The mansion went to the taxman, the Rolls-Royce had gone. I was living in a rented house.

That's when I started to learn the game. I became a lawyer and an accountant and I started to learn that it makes sense not to spend more than you can earn. You can spend money while you're working but, if you suddenly stop touring, you can't go on spending in the same way.

In 1980, two punks from America showed up at one of my club shows and, because of the way they were dressed, they weren't allowed in. I thought that was wrong - there must be somewhere else we could play. So we played Norwich University and

that sold out in about an hour. Then we went to three nights at Norwich, two nights at the ball at Christ Church in Oxford, and it just got huge. It started out as nostalgia, but it went way beyond that.

We toured for six years solidly round the universities, and it gave me a huge audience. Then we decided to try renting arena-sized venues ourselves - the first one was the NEC in Birmingham. That was nine years ago, and it really took off. They sell out every year now.

I'm just starting now to become a rich man as a result of taking care of business, but I lost 10 years in the middle of it all. You have to take advice and, every now and again, you've got to get off the merry-go-round and take stock of the situation. I've learnt my lesson - it's not what I want, it's what I need. That's a good one for everyone to remember."

Gary Glitter was talking to Paul Shude

## Benefit trap for the middle class

The job seekers' allowance has pitfalls if you have savings or insurance cover, Stephen Ingledeu warns

**A** serious "earthquake" shook the welfare state this week when on Monday unemployment benefit, one of the traditional cornerstones of the social security system, was abolished and replaced by the job seekers' allowance (JSA).

The new benefit is a further example of the Government attempting to reduce social security spending, particularly on middle income earners, and target benefits to the most needy. It follows the reduction a year ago in income support in respect of mortgage payments for homeowners who lost their jobs.

But what does the introduction of JSA mean and how does this affect the provision we should be making against the consequences of losing our jobs?

The introduction of JSA will further reduce the state benefits of many people who experience unemployment. According to the Department of Social Security over 50,000 people a year will receive lower benefits than under the old system.

Instead of the payments lasting for 12 months, as with the old unemployment benefit, JSA will only be paid for six months automatically. If claimants are still out of work after those six months, they will be means tested to determine whether they are still eligible to receive JSA.

Individuals with assets and capital of more than £8,000 (excluding the home) will not receive any JSA after six months and those with savings between £3,000 and £8,000 will only receive partial JSA benefit.

Secondly, after six months even those who are still eligible could have the benefit withdrawn if it is considered they are not making a "positive" effort to find a new job - for example, turning down a job because the pay is too low would not be justifiable.

Thirdly, the maximum weekly JSA of £47.90 is now lower than the previous unemployment benefit, and for

under 25-year-olds the benefit is even lower at £37.90 a week. There will be no escape from the Inland Revenue either as these benefits are taxable.

In theory anyone facing the possibility of losing his or her job should try to build up an emergency fund in a deposit account, which could meet outgoings for at least three months, the average period that an average income earner is out of work.

Another consideration would be unemployment insurance, for example in respect of mortgage payments or loan commitments. Many mortgage lenders now offer mortgage payment protection plans which will pay mortgage interest payments for a year if policyholders lose their job, for a monthly premium of around £6 for each £100 of monthly interest insured. Other policies cover mortgage payments for up to two years and some offer cover for other essential living costs.

However, while such actions would provide some peace of mind, the means testing system for benefits such as JSA does very little to encourage such private provision, and if anything acts as a disincentive.

For example, while the new JSA may prompt more of us to put some savings aside to tide over any unforeseen periods of being out of work, the irony is that those people who do save, with say a Tessa or PEP, will find their entitlement to JSA is reduced once the value exceeds the means test capital threshold of £3,000.

Although the value of any money held in a pension or life assurance policy would not be taken into account, if you are fortunate to receive a lump sum of redundancy payment this would be taken into account through the means test and could disallow any entitlement to JSA after six months.

Furthermore, even those who forward plan and take out unemployment insurance may find that some of the insurance benefit is taken into account

in determining eligibility for means-tested JSA.

Mortgage insurance payments are disregarded by the DSS for the means test if they specifically meet the cost of mortgage interest, but any excess payments which cover such items as endowment and life assurance premiums may not be and could affect entitlement to JSA.

So although the Government is using the "stick" of restricting social security benefits for the unemployed to encourage us to fend for ourselves more, there is a severe lack of "carrot" to encourage more private provision through savings or insurance.

However, it is vital that we do not just sit on our hands. If you are made unemployed you should not be discouraged from signing on by the limited benefits on offer, as you may at least be entitled to National Insurance credits which go towards your future state pension entitlement.

Ultimately, private provision, whether through long-term savings or insurance, is the only true way of being assured of some financial protection in the event of losing a job and will offer greater flexibility and choice than relying on the limited state benefits and conditions of the JSA.

The TUC's recent report on the JSA concludes: "Many middle class people are being frozen out of the welfare state at a time when they are more likely to need it." The changes are yet another clear indication from the Government that in the future most of us will need to rely on our own arrangements to tide us over the unforeseen events such as unemployment, particularly if we are enjoying average or above-average earnings while working and have built up some savings.

Stephen Ingledeu is development director of Fritzel Life & Planning, a subsidiary of the Liverpool Victoria Group.

## "A Solid Specification That Delivers Good Performance"

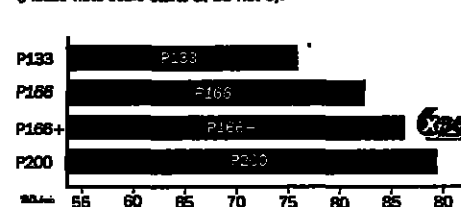
WHAT PC?



MJN introduce two powerful multimedia systems with incredible specifications at truly amazing prices. These systems come ready for use with Lotus SmartSuite 96 and other applications and are now available direct for home and small business users. Our Ultimate P166+ now comes with a massive 32Mb EDO RAM and Free 28.8 modem.



Relative Processor Performance Based on 2-D Winslow 96™ as certified by MDR labs. (Please note scale starts at 55 not 0).



### MJN Multimedia Midi Tower

- Intel Pentium® 166MHz processor
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- Latest Intel Triton 2 (i486) chipset
- 512K Pipeline burst mode cache
- 2.1 Gb Enhanced IDE hard disk
- The highest performance graphics with ATI 2Mb Synchronous "SDRAM" graphics card and software MPEG
- 15" Crisp sharp 286p NI SVGA Screen
- Orchid Nu-Sound Plug and play 32 Waveable sound card
- Eight speed IDE CD-ROM drive
- PC Joystick and 2 powerful stereo speakers
- 3.5" Diskette drive
- 2 Fast 16550 serial and enhanced parallel ports
- Windows 95 105 keyboard and mouse
- MJN 7 bay midi tower.

### Software

- Microsoft Windows 95 with manuals and CD
- Lotus SmartSuite 96 for Windows 95 with Word Pro, Freelance, 1-2-3, Organizer, Approach and Smartpics pre-loaded
- GSP Software suite with Pressworks, Designworks, Homework and Money pre-loaded
- CD Multimedia titles including Infopedia UK 96 encyclopaedia, Bodyworks v5 and WinTutor 95.
- FREE V34 28.8 internal fax/data Modem (limited to first 1000 orders of P166+ model only)

### MJN P166+ Multimedia Midi Tower

As above but with a 6x86 P166+ processor manufactured by IBM

P166 Model £1673.20 inc.VAT £1399 +VAT

P166+ Model £1790.70 inc.VAT £1499 +VAT

MJN Special Offers End 18th October

**MJN 01 282 777 555**

Telephone sales lines are open Monday - Friday 9am - 7pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm

MJN Technology Limited, Granville House, Blackburn Rd, Simonstone, Burnley, Lancs, BB12 7GT. Tel 01 282 777 555, Fax 01 282 77 08 44. Business card prices shown. Consumer enquiries welcome. All prices exclude delivery (£25+VAT+£28.20) and VAT £12.50. Software applications are provided on CD or pre-installed with on-line documentation. Screen shots shown are CD-ROMs and not industry standard. Prices shown are for products of illustration only. Goods are generally dispatched within 10 to 14 days. All orders will be fulfilled within 28 days unless otherwise indicated. Specifications, prices and availability are subject to change without notice. Products sold subject to our conditions of sale which are available on request. E&OE. MJN/TA



# PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE

24 hours a day.... 7 days a week.... Now you can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

**0345 6789 10**

**SCOTTISH WIDOWS**

For your protection, your call to Scottish Widows may be recorded. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products.

# What these policies really cost you

In part one of a special personal finance investigation, Peter Rodgers and Nic Cicutti name the best companies for pensions and savings

Many people put blood, sweat and tears into buying a home, and far less effort into investing in a pension or other long-term policy from an insurance company. Yet some of the insurance products on offer, especially the pension plans, are likely to be worth as much or more than a family home when they mature. A nice house at retirement is not much good without a decent pension.

In the last few years, there has been a growing realisation that decisions on investment need to be given just as much weight as those about buying bricks and mortar. But much of the information published about insurance products is impenetrable.

To help clear away this fog, the *Independent* asked John Chapman, a former senior official of the Office of Fair Trading, to analyse the investment products offered by insurance companies.

Mr Chapman was the author of a number of hard hitting OFT reports on the life insurance industry. Before he retired this year he suggested a pioneering new method of rating the performance of insurance companies and their products, on which this analysis is based.

It shows which companies are selling the best products. Just as significant, it shows which of them can back their claims about future performance by pointing to good results in the past. The analysis will help buyers of new policies to make a choice, and those with existing investments to check how well they are performing.

The problem with many policies is that if they were not on the market already, nobody would ever think of inventing them. They occupy a niche rather like aspirin and paracetamol in the health industry — they are so dangerous and have so many unexpected side-effects that

they would probably be banned from over-the-counter sale if they were launched in the 1990s.

Indeed, with-profits endowment policies, the traditional basis of pensions and other insurance investments, are probably the most one-sided contracts ever sold. Some policies have proved with hindsight to be very good value. But it was certainly not possible to work this out at the time they were bought.

Buyers of with-profits endowments invest their money with no idea of what they are going to get back. There is a guaranteed annual bonus, but the level each year is at the company's discretion, based on its own judgement of performance. Around half the final proceeds are likely to be in the form of a discretionary terminal bonus that the company is not obliged to pay.

It is hard to believe that until 1995, sellers of with-profits endowment policies

also managed to avoid declaring their charges. Policyholders did not know the cost of having their money invested in an insurance company's investment funds in their investments.

In recent years, the insurance industry has come up with an alternative to with-profits endowments, in the shape of unit-linked policies for pensions, mortgages and other products. Unit-linked policies are claimed to be much easier to understand and have become very popular.

But they are not nearly as transparent as they are claimed to be. Companies normally declare initial charges of around 5 per cent of premiums and annual charges of 0.625 per cent to 1.5 per cent, but an array of seemingly unimportant charges associated in the smaller print can swell the initial charge on a unit-linked policy to the equivalent of 12 per cent of premiums.

There is a simple reason why charges are the most important consideration in

buying a policy from a life insurance company, whether it be for mortgage repayment, a pension or some other form of savings. This is that the primary determinant of policyholder returns is not investment performance but the total amount of charges levied by the insurers on their customers over the years the policy is in force.

Investment performance is important, of course. But the arithmetic of charges puts it in perspective. The charges reduce the overall yield of a policy by the equivalent of between 1 and 5 percentage points a year. For those cashed in early, the reduction in yield can be 10 per cent or more.

Not only are some of these numbers startlingly high, the range between best and worst is also extremely wide, suggesting some companies are charging far too much. The fact is that a company with charges at the higher end of the scale

would need a truly miraculous investment performance over the years to overcome the cost handicap, and beat a rival with low charges. This is why charges are so important in making a decision about what to buy.

Life assurance is heavily marketed. In theory, charges should therefore drop as companies fight for business. But in reality there is very little evidence of this happening, and some charges are actually rising. The reason is not hard to find. The insurance industry has been selling to a public that has not had the information on which to make informed decisions.

The only way to introduce real competition into the industry is therefore to put the spotlight on charges in an easily accessible way, and keep it there.

If customers begin to seek out the lowest cost companies, rather than the ones with the biggest brand names or marketing teams, then charges should fall.

## PORTFOLIO

# ASIA

## Fund of Funds

Fixed price offer closes 1st November 1996

**PORTFOLIO ASIA FUND** is a new unit trust which aims to achieve maximum capital growth from investment in the great growth economies of the Far East. Like the other well-known Portfolio funds it will use the fund of funds principle, aiming to choose the best Asia funds from the best Asia fund managers.

### THE ASIAN PHENOMENON

Asia Fund will give investors access to some of the world's most dynamic markets. China is a prospective economic super power. Hong Kong is China's New York. Korea is the Japan of the future. Indonesia has more people than Russia. India produces more computer software than the United States. Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan have taken over from Japan as the leading makers of consumer electronics. Thailand and the Philippines are growing faster than any European Union country. Asia Fund will accordingly invest across the whole sweep of these countries, from Korea to India. It may also include Australia, but will avoid Japan.

### THE FUND OF FUNDS ADVANTAGE

No one fund manager can master all the companies in all the countries in Asia. India alone has 4,000 quoted shares. But individual funds and fund managers can be very good indeed. Portfolio Asia Fund aims to pick out the best of them, organising them into a tax-efficient portfolio in which changes can be made without incurring capital gains tax: even the best of funds can run out of growth and have to be changed for a better one. The fund can include both UK authorised unit trusts and SIB-recognised offshore funds. As with the existing Portfolio funds of funds, selection leans heavily on the analytical work of Fund Research Limited, the leading specialist in assessing the quality of funds and their managers.

Investors should however bear in mind that the value of their investment could go down as well as up.

### A PURE CAPITAL GROWTH FUND

The aim of Portfolio Asia Fund is to achieve maximum capital growth. Income is reinvested net of basic rate tax and reflected in the price of units. Higher rate taxpayers may incur a further liability, but this is likely to be small: the estimated initial gross yield is 0.1%. The fund is exempt from Capital Gains Tax on its internal transactions but unitholders may be liable to CGT when they sell units.

### NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST

Unlike the stockmarkets of Britain, America and much of Europe, Asian markets have recently been unusually depressed. They now represent excellent value. We expect that their growth pattern will soon be renewed.

### PATHFINDER PORTFOLIO

The planned portfolio will include regional and single country unit trusts and SIB-recognised Asia funds. The provisional list, which may be subject to change, is as follows:

- Fidelity ASEAN, South East Asia
- Fidelity Funds Hong Kong & China, Korea, Malaysia
- Schroder Far Eastern Growth, Pacific Growth, Seoul
- HSBC Asian
- HSBC GIF Chinese Equity, Hong Kong Equity, Singapore Equity
- Templeton GS China, Korea
- GT China, India, Orient
- Credit Suisse Orient
- Fleming Flagship China, Eastern Opportunities
- Perpetual Asian Smaller Markets
- Abtrust Far East Emerging Economies
- Friends Provident Australia
- GAM Asian Funds
- Invesco Taiwan Growth

### PORTFOLIO'S TRACK RECORD

Portfolio's original Fund of Funds began in December 1989 and is the outstanding fund of funds of the industry. To 31 July 1996 it was the best performing fund of funds since launch, and also over 6 years, 5 years, 4 years and 3 years. (Source: *Hindsight*). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance, but Portfolio Asia Fund will be run in the same way by the same people although concentrating solely on Asian funds.

### FIXED PRICE OFFER

The initial offer of units is at a fixed price of 50p each until Friday 1 November. The minimum investment is £1,000. During the initial offer period there will be a 1% discount on all investments of £3,000 or more, 2% from £10,000 and 3% from £25,000. To invest, complete the coupon and send it, with your cheque, to be received no later than Friday 1 November. Applications received after then will have units allocated at the full offer price next calculated after receipt.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Applications will be acknowledged with a contract note and certificates will be sent within 21 days of the date of the offer. From 4 November 1996, units will be valued and dealt in on a forward basis at 10.00 am daily. When units are sold, cheques will be posted within five days of receipt of the renounced certificate.

Prices will be published every day in the *Financial Times*, *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. The spread between bid and offer prices may be varied within the regulations. The initial charge is 6%. The maximum annual charge is 2%, but the actual charge for the foreseeable future will be 1.5%. Any increase would require 90 days notice. Trustees, Auditor's and Registrar's fees are paid by the fund. Commission is payable to approved intermediaries; rates are available on request.

The underlying funds bear their own charges. The initial charges are likely to be reduced by negotiation. On the existing Portfolio Fund of Funds the average charge is under 0.5%. In some cases annual charges are reduced as well.

Copies of the Trust Deed and Scheme Particulars are available on request from the Manager. Reports will be published twice yearly. The Trustee is Midland Bank plc, Mariner House, Peppys Street, London EC3M 4DA. Regulated by the FIMRO.

The Registrars and Administrators are Premier Administration Limited, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA. Telephone: 01277 227300. Fax: 01277 221084. Regulated by the FIMRO.

The Manager is Portfolio Fund Management Limited, 40 Abchurch Lane, London EC4M 3ST. Telephone: 0171 698 0808. Fax: 0171 698 0050. Regulated by the Financial Investment Authority and by the FIMRO.

**INITIAL OFFER** of units in Portfolio Asia Fund at 50p each until Friday 1 November 1996.

Discounts: £3,000 or more, 1% • £10,000 or more, 2% • £25,000 or more, 3%.

To: Portfolio Fund Management Limited, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA

I wish to invest £ (minimum £1,000) in Portfolio Asia Fund and enclose my cheque payable to Portfolio Fund Management Limited.

Surname

Full Forename(s)

Address

Postcode

Signature

IND 12/10

Surname

Full Forename(s)

If you have financial advisers, this application should be lodged through them.

IFA SIB no.

IFA stamp

### Regular premium personal pensions – unit-linked

Projected ratings Past performance ratings

(X= data not supplied or not yet available) (\* Value at 5 and 10 years only)

#### TOP 5

Equitable Life	A+ A+ A+	A+ A+
Norwich Union	B A A	A A+
Standard Life	A B B	A B+
Rothschild Asset Man.	A+ A B	X X*
Gartmore Pooled Pens.	A A B	X X*

#### BOTTOM 5

Abbey Life	C- C- C-	C X*
AXA Equity & Law	C C C	B B*
Albany Life	C- C- B	X X*
Skandia Life	C C B	B C*
Old Mutual	C C B	X X*

### Stand-alone single premium pensions – with-profits

#### TOP 5

Equitable Life	A+ A+ A	B B A
Royal London	A A A	A A B
Scottish Amicable	A A+ A+	B B B
Norwich Union	A A A	C A A
Scottish Widows	A B A	C B A

#### BOTTOM 5

AXA Equity & Law	C C C	A B A
Guardian Financial	B C C	C- X X
RNPFN	B C C	X A+ A
Prudential	B C- C-	B X X
Friends Provident	C- C- A	A C C

### Stand-alone single premium pensions – unit-linked

#### TOP 5

Friends Provident	A A A	A B*
General Accident	B A A	B A*
Scottish Provident	A B B	A A+*
Sun Life	A B B	B A*
Equitable Life	A A+ A+	B C*

#### BOTTOM 5

Albany Life	C C- C-	B B*
Scottish Equitable	B C- C-	B B*
Prudential	B C C-	C C*
Guardian Financial	B C C	X X*
MGM Assurance	B C C	C B*

### Single premium investment bonds – with-profits

#### TOP 5

Royal Insurance	A+ A+ A	X X X
Equitable Life	A A A+	X X X
General Accident	A A A	X X X
Scottish Widows	A A A	X X X
Friends Provident	B A A+	X X X

#### BOTTOM 5

Prudential	C- C- C-	X X X
Legal & General	C- C C	X X X
RNPFN	B C C	X X X
Commercial Union	B C C	X X X
Sun Life	B C C	X X X

### Single premium investment bonds – unit-linked

#### TOP 5

Norwich Union	B B A	A B*
Merchant Investors	A+ A+ A+	C B*
Equitable Life	A A+ A+	C B*
Abbey Life	A A A+	B C*
Midland Life	A A A	C X*

#### BOTTOM 5

Gan Life & Pension	C- C- C-	B X*
Sun Alliance	C- C- C-	B C*
Allied Dunbar	C C- C-	B A*
Commercial Union	C C- C-	B C*
Homeowners Friendly	C C- C-	C X*

John Chapman's pioneering methods for comparing performance between companies have been adopted by *Money Marketing*, the magazine for independent financial intermediaries, which asked actuaries at KPMG to carry out the detailed calculations for each company. Mr Chapman's analysis for the *Independent* uses *Money Marketing's* calculations. Fuller performance tables for unit-linked and with-profits policies are separately available from *Money Marketing* Customer Services, St Giles House, 50 Poland Street, London W1V 4AX, for £3.75 each inc p.p.



## The price of a poor performer: £55,000

The most obvious feature of the main table (right), which illustrates regular-premium personal pensions based on with-profits policies, is the wide gap between best and worst performers at every stage. In cash terms, this gap rises to nearly £55,000 by the time the pensions mature. A similar pattern can be seen for all other products, as a result of the wide variations in the charges levied by life insurance companies.

The top four companies in John Chapman's rankings in the main table are the only ones that have projected above-average future performance and can support that with above-average past performance. In the rest of the table, the order of merit depends simply on the projections the companies have made. The other summary tables (facing page) bear the same message – that only a handful of companies have proven capability to deliver.

A large group to watch out for is the ambitious improvers, such as Scottish Widows, Legal & General and Scottish Amicable. Across a range of products they are projecting better performance in the future than they have achieved the past. This may well be because they have decided to cut their costs to become more competitive.

Some of those at the bottom of the tables are actually projecting worse performance in the future than in the past, for reasons which are unclear. In the main table Scottish Provident and Axa Equity & Law come into this category.

One of the recurring features of the analysis carried out by Mr Chapman is the regular appearance of a handful of mutual insurers in the list of companies with low charging structures. Equitable Life, Standard Life and Norwich Union feature among the best performers among nearly all products on offer to policyholders. Conversely, Royal Insurance, Prudential and Axa Equity & Law, all proprietary companies owned by their shareholders, feature among the bottom five tables.

Another feature of the main pensions table is the poor transfer values for policies in the early years. Only seven of the companies in the main table give you all your money back, even in cash terms without interest, when you transfer after five years. Transfer terms in the first couple of years, which are not generally public, are often much worse, with some companies paying minuscule amounts.

The gap in charges between the top and bottom performers can be substantial. In the case of regular-premium personal pensions, where a person pays £100 a month for 25 years, Equitable Life's final retirement fund, at more than £240,000, will be almost one-third better than Axa's £186,000.

After five years, the value of a General Accident pension transfer, the second-best, is 14 per cent better than Sun Life, third from bottom.

### Regular-premium personal pensions – with-profits

Company	Value at year 5 (£)	Value at year 20 (£)	Retirement fund (£)	Ratings: projections	Ratings: past performance
Equitable Life	7,099	57,961	241,076	A+ A+ A+	A+ A A
Clerical Medical	5,507	54,839	235,363	B A A	B A B
General Accident	5,715	53,612	228,685	B A A	A X A
Norwich Union	5,500	52,500	225,000	B A A	B B A
NPI	5,747	53,618	222,240	B A B	B C C
Scottish Amicable	5,705	52,343	223,790	B A B	C B B
Sun Alliance	6,500	52,300	215,000	A+ A B	C C C
Scottish Widows	6,395	51,135	219,235	ABB	BCB
Commercial Union	5,574	49,707	225,809	B B A	X C C
Medical Sickness	6,280	46,300	247,000	A C A+	A+ B B
Standard Life	6,442	51,191	206,591	A B C	B B B
Scottish Mutual	6,381	48,812	208,576	A B C	B B A
Legal & General	5,550	52,055	205,845	B A C	C B C
CIS	5,074	50,657	230,540	CBA	AAX
Scottish Equitable	5,165	50,958	236,100	C B A	C C A
Royal Insurance	5,126	49,010	227,258	C B A	C C C
Wesleyan Assurance	5,516	48,109	210,214	B B B	A A B
Eagle Star	4,692	52,279	224,234	C A B	A A+ A
Prudential	6,353	49,360	183,502	A B C-	A X X
National Mutual Life	5,138	48,643	220,896	C B B	C B B
Britannia Life	4,956	51,634	218,000	C B B	C C C-
Britannic Assurance	5,447	49,426	201,259	B B C	B X X
Scottish Life	4,883	50,433	218,825	C B B	B B B
NFU Mutual	4,955	50,958	212,543	C B B	B A B
Guardian Financial	5,284	49,885	196,279	B B C	X X X
Friends Provident	5,290	43,500	221,000	B C B	X C B
Royal London	5,359	48,991	193,999	B B C	B A A
Scottish Provident	5,280	49,600	197,000	B B C	B A B
Colonial	4,907	48,112	200,901	C B C	X X X
Sun Life	4,915	43,865	216,024	C C B	C- B B
RNPFN	4,800	31,170	235,435	C C- A	X A+ A+
AXA Equity & Law	4,350	42,600	186,000	C- C- C-	C C A
Average	5,496	49,549	216,693		

Based on investment of £100 a month, starting at age 30.

X= data not supplied or not yet available.

Investment funds are assumed to grow at 9 per cent a year.

One factor to watch out for is the "halo" effect, where a company has a range of disappointing product charges but is redeemed by a good one. This can provide it with a good sales pitch.

There are relatively few companies with top performance across the board. In an analysis of 10 products, only Equitable Life is always in the top five. Standard Life has five in the top five, Norwich Union and Scottish Widows four, General Accident and Friends Provident three.

A major disappointment from these tables is the relatively poor showing of most of the big "bancassurers" – insurance companies set up by banks and building societies. When they first began to be set up in the early 1990s, it was predicted that companies like Midland Life, Barclays Life and NatWest Life would rapidly grab huge market share by launching cheap products at their large potential client base.

This has not happened in the main. For most products, the banks' insurance subsidiaries are usually dearer than their older rivals. This is partly because the bancassurers have preferred to coast along without competing too heavily. Indeed, in many cases, the big banks do not figure in the tables.

This is partly because they are so new, and there is no way of measuring their long-term performance, and partly because some are poor performers. In some cases, bancassurers do not supply the figures because they are so bad.

The first principle in John Chapman's ratings is that a company's final performance – the cash it delivers when a policy matures – is not always the best way of measuring how good it is. More than 70 per cent of savers who start a regular-premium pension policy lapse well before final maturity. It is vital to know what they will be paid should they pull out early.

The new ratings system marks companies on the basis of how much they pay back investors, or give in transfer value, in the early stages of a policy, part way through it, and at maturity. These calculations are done twice. First, the system rates a company's past performance, based on the amount of cash paid out at the three different stages. The same calculations are done again, based on the company's own projections of future payouts.

As explained on the facing page, it is the charges to policyholders that are the most important determinant of long-term performance. So the projections assume that every company has the same investment performance. Variations in payouts are then a result

of differences in costs. These sums are shown in the first three columns.

But Mr Chapman's ratings do not rely on a confusing array of numbers. Instead, they allocate a letter from A+, the best, down to C-, the worst. A company with an A+ A+ A+ rating is excellent at every stage. A rating of CAA means policyholders will be treated badly if they surrender or transfer early, but well if the policy is kept to maturity. The letters are allocated by calculating how much a company deviates up or down from the midpoint of all the companies in the survey.

The top companies in each category in the main and summary tables are those where good future projections are matched by past performance. In the rest of each table, the rankings are based on the companies' projections of future charges. In addition to pensions, the same rating system can be applied to a variety of other life insurance products, including mortgages and savings policies.

There are ways in which companies can get round the embarrassment of having to admit high charges. These will be discussed next week.

## The fast track way to tax-free global investment.

The Norwich Global Tracking PEP

The Norwich Global Tracking PEP combines the tax efficiency of Personal Equity Plans with the opportunity to spread your investment across a wide range of companies around the world.

Charges for the plan are low, NO initial charge, NO exit charge and an annual charge of less than 1%.

The minimum lump sum investment is £1,000 or you can invest from just £50 per month offering a very economical and highly efficient way into world markets for a modest investment.

Act today, to get your money moving around the world – with Norwich Union.

For full written details call

0345 73 83 93

(local call rates) quoting reference "OE" between 9 am and 6 pm 7 days a week or complete the coupon below

Complete in block capitals and post to: Norwich Union Portfolio Services Ltd, FREEPOST ANG4098, PO Box 142, Norwich NR1 3BR.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Data that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your financial adviser or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes such as market research and contacting you regarding your future insurance and investment needs. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded.



No one protects more.

The value of and income from PEPs may fall and you may not get back the amount invested. Funds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice offered will only relate to Norwich Union products. References to UK taxation are to levels and reliefs currently available and are subject to change and an individual's circumstances.

## NATIONAL TRUST SUPPORTER? TEACHER OR LECTURER? CIVIL SERVICE, BT OR POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE (WHO JOINS THE CSMA\*)?

### Just the job for better home and car insurance.

If you belong to one of the special groups above, make sure you phone us and claim a better deal on your home and car insurance.

We can offer you exclusive benefits, and preferential rates that mean outstanding value for money.

Call for a quote now and let's see what we can do for you.

\*The Civil Service Maturing Association - membership of which is open to current, former and retired employees of Civil Service, or ex Civil Service organisations, such as BT and the PO.

CALL TODAY FREE 0800 680 690

Call any time from 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 8am-4pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TIM.

**FRIZZELL**

We'll make sure you never want to leave

Frizzell Financial Services Limited, Frizzell House, County Gates, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2NT

All insurance cover is provided by The Norwich Union Insurance Company Limited, Norwich, Norfolk

## Little value but still big sellers

Armies of salespeople do the trick

Anyone not versed in the machinations of the insurance industry might assume that life companies charging the most for the policies they sell are also the ones with the worst business figures. In fact, logic is turned on its head.

The most recent survey by *Money Management*, a specialist magazine, shows that Prudential, which consistently scores among the poorest performers, grabbed £446m of new premium income in 1995, more than any other insurer.

Yet it has an average CCC rating across its products. Allied Dunbar also came within the top 10 for new premium income, as did Sun Life and Legal & General. Barclays Life, not noted for its low charges, took £89.8m, placing it in the top 20, pipping NatWest, Black Horse Abbey National, Midland and TSB, all of which still vacillated over large amounts of policyholders' money.

What marks most of these companies out is not their competitiveness – but one asset which allows them to transcend such minor questions – a large salesforce. In most cases, if an insurer has a small army pounding the streets and selling policies, it can remain relatively insulated from the need to offer competitive products. Prudential, for example, has a 7,000-strong salesforce which nudged up 64 per cent of its business.

Also instructive is how sales

are divided across different types of policies. The Pru sold only 29 per cent of its regular-premium pensions through independent financial advisers, who tend to scrutinise the value of these policies. The rest was sold by its own salespeople.

A handful of companies popular among independent financial advisers, such as Scottish Amicable, Standard Life and Norwich Union, also scored well in the premium income league.

While some of the companies picked by IFAs, notably Norwich Union and Standard Life, are in the top five for their charges, others are not. This reveals an uncomfortable truth about advisers: sometimes they may be affected more by commissions paid or the bells and whistles on a policy than whether it is good value overall.

One notable exception to all this is Equitable Life, a company that sells almost exclusively through its salesforce. The excellent value of its products ensured that it came second in terms of new income in 1995, just behind the Pru.

However, much of its premium income came from the large company pension funds it manages. Which leads to the final question: if its charges are so good why is it that the company's products are not sold by IFAs? Because it refuses to pay them commission, thus guaranteeing that hardly any will recommend its products.

Did you know the government allows you to save from £10 to £25 a month with a friendly society completely free of tax? And while your savings are growing tax free, you can look forward to a final lump sum, also entirely free of tax.

Scottish Friendly has an excellent with profits track record and our ten year plan offers you:

- A guaranteed minimum return
- The prospect of tax free annual bonuses
- A lump sum final payment entirely free of tax
- The choice of paying monthly, annually or in a lump sum

Every member of your family can save tax free, so don't miss out. For more information, return the coupon to the address below or call us free today.

Scottish Friendly Assurance, FREEPOST, Admell 583, Glasgow G2 1ST

CALL FREE QUOTING (0800 12/10)

0800 585 625

Please send me more information on tax free saving with Scottish Friendly

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Full performance is not a guarantee as to future performance. Please refer to our prospectus for full details of our terms and conditions.

Member of LSI. Registered in the Personal Investment Handbook.

## DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO SAVE TAX FREE

Reply today and get a FREE CORKSCREW and details of further free gifts with your policy

Date of birth  Age

No. of people in household

Adults  Children

From time to time, we may send you details of other Scottish Friendly products and services which we think may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to receive this information, tick this box ☐

**Scottish Friendly**

A friendly society

Member of LSI. Registered in the Personal Investment Handbook.

# A pound to a penny, coins are collectable

Numismatists are making a comeback, says John Andrew

Coin collecting is making a comeback after a decade in the wilderness. "The interest in coin collecting has never been as great since the late 1960s and early 1970s," according to Mark Rasmussen of Spink, the coin dealers.

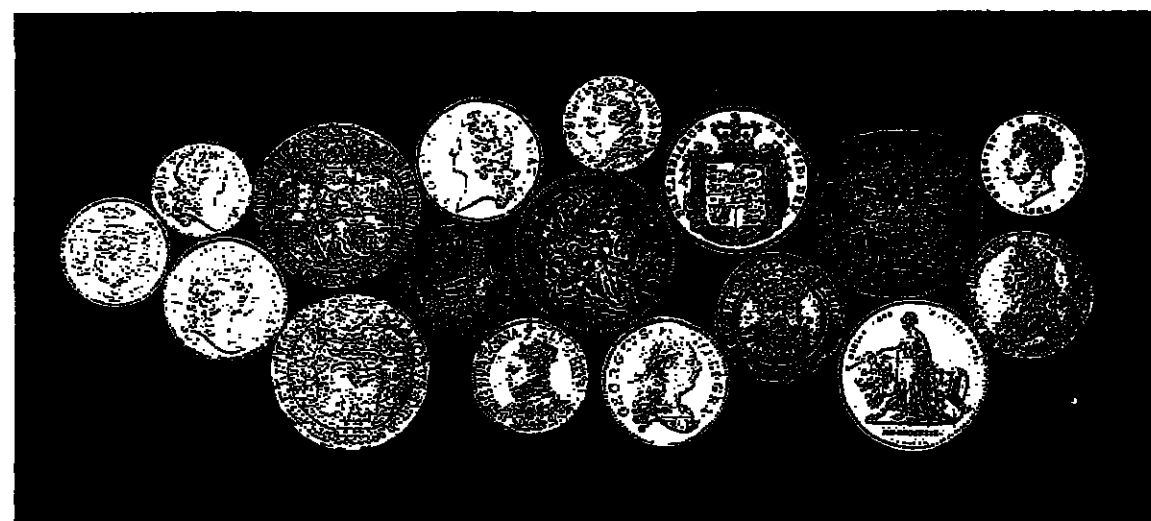
The heyday for coin collecting was the lead-up to decimalisation in 1971 until the mid-1970s. Collecting coinage from change to form date-runs of denominations which were soon to vanish almost became a national occupation. Many of these "casual" date collectors became numismatists proper and began to form collections of historical coins, only to stop collecting in the Eighties.

It was not because the coins themselves lost their appeal, but because they became too expensive to collect. The 1970s was a decade of rampant inflation and it became fashionable to put money into collectables as savings accounts did not pay a real return.

The sharpest rise in prices for British historical coins occurred in 1973-1974 when the stock market was collapsing. Although the coin market paused for breath in the first few months of 1974, it then started on a steady upward climb. Five years later prices for English coins on average had increased 150 per cent.

In the late 1970s there was a further price boom caused by two inter-related factors. There was a great deal of investment buying in the States where, until the Reagan administration stopped the concession in 1980, buyers could invest in collectibles via retirement plans and receive tax relief on their purchases.

Even before the purchase of coins for pension funds had stopped, there was the great bullion boom of 1979-1980. On 18 January 1980 silver peaked at \$52.50 and gold at \$835 an ounce. Many coin dealers traded in bullion as an adjunct to their main businesses. The profits they were generating from this activity were substantial. As the coin market was buoyant, the money was channelled into their coin dealing operations. The price for US historical coins rose so sharply and suddenly that



Affordable as well as collectable: a selection of rare and choice British coins from the dealers Spink

European coins looked extremely cheap by comparison.

American coin dealers crossed the Atlantic and invaded the London and continental auction houses. As money was no object, prices for material boomed even further. No wonder at that period, one prominent member of the London coin trade commented, "There are no longer any coin collectors, just investors."

Inevitably the bubble burst, in the first half of 1983, and prices fell. Those who had purchased coins as an investment were disillusioned, while many genuine numismatists had long since stopped making additions to their collections as the specimens they sought were financially out of their grasp.

Even now prices are well below peak levels. In both 1965 and 1966 Mr B purchased two examples of a gold Cromwell broad, or pound piece, at £325 and £350. The pieces, which were both in mint condition, were gifts for his two grandchildren. They were auctioned in February 1982 for £8,200 and £9,200. Today they would be likely to sell for £6,000 each.

In recent years the market for British coins has been stable, with prices on

average being at or marginally above the levels of the mid-1970s. Given inflation over the past 20 years, coins are more affordable now than in the past. This factor, linked with greater disposable incomes, is undoubtedly the main reason why the collectors of the 1960s are returning to the pastime that gave them so much enjoyment in the past.

Although great rarities can cost thousands, for every expensive coin, hundreds of thousands can be purchased for modest sums. Contrary to popular opinion, a coin's value is not influenced by age. A reasonable example of a Roman or medieval coin can be purchased for a few pounds.

The most important determinant of value is a coin's condition, which ranges from mint state to poor. An uncirculated 1887 silver crown bearing the Jubilee portrait of Queen Victoria, would sell for around £60. However, one with considerable signs of wear on its raised surfaces would be worth only £10, while one in poor state would be worth £2-£3. Incidentally, never clean a coin as this slashes its value.

The future for coin collecting looks good and prices will undoubtedly rise. Britain's adoption of a single European

currency would generate considerable new collector demand. However, there is one thing which has been learnt from the past – coins are not an investment. When the financial aspect outweighs the interest in coins for their own sake, that is when the problems will begin again. Coins are a fascinating subject in their own right, for every coin tells a story and a nation's coinage tells its history.

Coinex '96 is organised by the British Numismatic Trade Association and takes place today at the London Marriott Hotel, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, London W1. It is open from 9.30am to 5pm, admission £2. There will be 68 exhibitors from around the world. Free valuations are offered. For a complete list of BNTA members telephone 0181-398 4290.

Independent readers may obtain a complimentary copy of *Coin News*, cover price £2, by sending £1 in stamps or a £1 coin for postage to: Independent Readers' Offer, Token Publishing Limited, PO Box 14, Honiton, Devon EX14 9YP



Jonathan Davis  
investments

What is the outlook for the world stock markets now that both Wall Street and the London market have passed their latest numerical hurdles – 6000 on the Dow Jones and 4000 on the Footsie index? The numbers, though nice round figures, have no significance in economic terms. But they do provide a good moment to stop and take stock of where the balance of argument between bulls and bears now lies.

As it happens, the direction of the markets was the subject of a whole day conference last week by the strategists at James Capel, one of the City's best surviving research-led broking houses. Even allowing for the fact that brokers are paid to be optimistic, they put forward a lot of good arguments to justify why they remain fundamentally optimistic about the current level of the markets.

Capels have said all along this year that they expect the main stock markets to keep powering ahead and events so far have more than borne them out, despite much scepticism from their rivals along the way. Their forecast is for the London market to rise a further 10 per cent over the next year, despite the inevitable imminence of political worries ahead of the next election. This is how they make their case.

Wall Street may be overvalued if you look only in absolute terms at the main valuation measures such as dividend yield and price-earnings ratio. But once you adjust for the secular decline in long-term interest rates, and for the impact of the business cycle, it becomes much easier to explain. Put another way, American companies have for most of the last 15 years consistently been earning returns on their investment which are comfortably ahead of their cost of capital.

This was not the case for almost the entire period between 1972 and 1982, and again, more briefly, in the 1990-92 recession. The implication is that the dream ticket combination of rising earnings and falling interest rates may still have some way to run, though even Capels concede that we must now be approaching the end of the current bull phase of the stock market cycle.

The picture in the UK is, if anything,

more positive, according to Capels. It is not just that the UK stock market tends to lag Wall Street, though it has fallen much further behind the American market in relative terms than the historical averages suggest. More important is that British industry too has been undergoing a positive renaissance. Unlike previous recoveries, when most of the profit gains have been driven by higher prices rather than by efficiency gains, this time both profit margins and return on capital have benefited from direct management action. In a low inflation environment, managers have taken full advantage of their new freedom to manage.

As a result, profits have been rising almost twice as fast as the economy as a whole – 12 per cent against 6 per cent in nominal terms last year, and a probable 16 per cent against 5 per cent this year. According to Robert Buckland, the UK strategist at Capels, investors who look solely at overall market valuation measures and macro-economic figures are in danger of missing out on what is taking place inside the boardrooms of UK plc. While the overall rate of earnings growth at UK quoted companies may now be slowing down, the gains in real and relative terms continue to be impressive.

Comparing the return on shares with that on gilts and cash, there is no evidence that the market is anything like as overvalued as it was before the 1987 crash. The reason is that the quality of company earnings is higher while the interest rate outlook remains much more benign (though pressure on service sector inflation could push interest rates up next year).

Most surprising of all, perhaps, the Capels team is still refusing to write off the Tories' chances at the next election. They base this view partly on the fact that the feelgood factor is now starting to return with a vengeance. Consumer spending and the housing market are both reviving, as the Chancellor clearly intends, and consumer confidence, as measured by the polls, is actually above its long-run trend. The Government's problem is that it is not getting the political credit for the economic revival which it would have done if the traditional relationship between economic well-being and the polls had not broken down so drastically in the last four years.

The ERM crisis and the Blair phenomenon are the two most important ingredients in this reversal of fortune. But even here not all is lost. The most recent polls show a sudden narrowing of the Labour party's lead over the Government on two key measures: which party is credited with the greater ability to manage the economy, and which is considered likely to take the most favourable line on tax. The polling gap, conclude Capels, is certain to narrow over the next few months. Their view is that the next election is far from being lost. If so, that prospect will help the market to overcome its traditional pre-polling jitters.

## The Stockmarket has grown over 84% in 4 years

SO HAVE WE

Over the past 4 years, the FTSE All-Share Index has grown by over 84%. That's a substantially better performance than the average UK General Equity PEP. In fact, most managed PEPs can't match this kind of growth.

So why not just track the Index? That is exactly what the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP does. By removing the guesswork and simply tracking the Index accurately, it provides reliable performance year after year.

Take a look at the difference that it can make to your investment. Compared to the average UK General Equity Trust, £50,000\* invested in Legal & General Index-Tracking Trust four years ago would have given you £103,333\* or a 107%\* better return.

Lower costs give performance a head start

With management charges of only 0.5% p.a., our PEP is considerably cheaper than most other PEPs which typically charge between 1.0% p.a. and 1.5% p.a. And that's with no initial charges and no withdrawal fees – so you get a head start every year when it comes to performance.

To find out more about the UK's best-value PEP, call us today, or return the coupon below. Alternatively you can contact us at <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

### The Index-Tracking PEP

0800 11 66 22

Please quote reference number: TBG16

\*Example: Managed on an index to £100,000 with no income reinvested from 01/10/92 to 01/10/96 the index has grown by 84%. This makes no allowance for any management charges which are applicable to a PEP but our charges would not significantly alter the performance. £1,000 invested in the Index-Tracking PEP would have grown to £1,840 by 01/10/96. This performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax advantages are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory changes. The value of the unit will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01/10/96. Legal & General Unit Trust Managers Limited (Registered in England No 107418) Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3DF. Regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Members of AIFU.

Post to: Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited, FREEPOST KT4 479, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 6BR.

Please send me full written details of the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE  TELEPHONE NO

If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐

We and others may use your details for other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe can be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this, please contact us at the above postal address or by the above telephone number.



## 3 M&G European Unit Trusts

M&G now has 3 European unit trusts with investment objectives to meet your needs. All 3 funds are available for investment within the M&G PEP.

- The M&G European & General Fund – for investors looking to build capital from a diversified portfolio of European securities.
- The M&G European Dividend Fund – for investors aiming to achieve an above average and increasing income from their investment.
- The new M&G European Smaller Companies Fund – for investors aiming for capital growth.

To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET. Please send me details of the M&G European Fund range and how to transfer any non M&G PEP.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value of the tax benefits of PEPs will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

Mr/Ms/Miss	INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS		
POSTCODE		GG-NMAETT

M&G does not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Registered by The Financial Services Authority). M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited. (Registered by M&G and The Financial Services Authority).

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies. Tick the box ☐ if you would prefer not to receive this information.

Managing your money for the longer term

### 3 M&G European Unit Trusts

For details return the coupon or telephone (0990) 600 627 or e-mail [hb@MandG.reply.co.uk](mailto:hb@MandG.reply.co.uk)

"European companies and stockmarkets are in the throes of an unprecedented period of change, from which shareholders will probably emerge as the main winners."

John Hatherly, Head of Research, M&G





Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max. adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
<b>Fixed rates</b>					
Scarbrough BS	0800 590547	0.20 for 1 year	85	0.75%	1st 5 yrs: 1.04% of sum repaid
First Mortgage	0800 060088	6.35 to 1/1/00	75	\$295	To 1/1/02: 6% of advance
Northern Rock	0800 581500	7.49 to 1/1/01	95	\$295	1st 6 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
<b>Variable rates</b>					
Scarbrough BS	0800 590547	65% for 1 year	95	—	1st 5 yrs: 6.33% of sum repaid
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.50% to 1/1/98	75	—	To 30/10/01: discount repaid
Northern Rock BS	0800 581500	4.24% to 1/1/99	95	\$295	1st 7 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
<b>First time buyers fixed rates</b>					
Alliance & Leicester	via local branch	2.10 to 1/10/97	95	0.5%	To 1/10/01: 6 mths interest
Market Harbour BS	01858 463244	4.49 to 1/1/98	90	\$295	To 1/1/00: 3 mths interest
TSB	via local branch	7.74 to 30/9/01	95	\$50	To 30/9/01: 3-5 mths int
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/1/97	90	—	To 31/10/01: discount repaid
Greenwich BS	0181 858212	3.49% for 2 years	95	\$250	1st 5 yrs: discount repaid
Halifax BS	0800 101110	5.45% to 31/1/02	90	—	To 31/1/04: 1-2% of adv

Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)
<b>Unsecured</b>			
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	13.9 E	With insurance £112.86 Without insurance £101.33
Alliance & Leicester	0116 262 6262	14.8	\$114.95 \$102.36
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.9	\$115.82 \$102.49
<b>Secured (second charge)</b>			
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.5	Neg £3K - £15K 6 mths to 25 years
Royal Bank of Scotland	0131 523 7023	8.7	70% £2.5K-£100K 3 years to retirement
Barclays Bank	0800 000929	9.3/9.5	80% £10K-£75K 5 to 25 years

Telephone	Account	% pm	APR	Unauthorised % pm	APR
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76	9.5	2.18
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	9.5	2.20
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.94	11.9	2.18

Telephone	Card Type	Min income	Rate % pm	APR %	Annual Fee	Int. free period
<b>Standard</b>						
Co-operative Bank	0800 109000	Advantage Visa	—	0.64N	7.90N	nil
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.895N	11.20	0 days
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	—	0.94N	11.90N	56 days
<b>Gold cards</b>						
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	\$20,000	0.4792	10.32	\$120 46 days
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	\$20,000	0.94N	11.90N	nil 56 days
Royal Bank of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	\$20,000	1.05N	14.50N	\$35 46 days

Telephone		Payment by direct debit		Payment by other methods	
		% pm	APR	% pm	APR
John Lewis	via store	1.39	18.0	1.39	18.0
Marks and Spencer	01244 681681	1.87	24.8	1.97	26.3
Sears	via store	1.94	25.9	2.20	29.8

APR: Annualised percentage rate. B+C Buildings and Contents Insurance LTV: Loan to value. ASI: Accident, sickness and unemployment. E: Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years. H: Introductory rate for a limited period. All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01822 50677. 10 October 1996.

Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>Prudential BS</b>					
01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	\$100	4.50	Year
<b>Co-operative Bank</b>					
0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	\$5,000	4.75	Month
0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	\$10,000	5.50	Year
0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	\$50,000	5.75	Year
<b>Teachers' BS</b>					
01202 867171	Bullion	Postal	\$500	4.80	1/2 Year
<b>Alliance &amp; Leicester BS</b>					
0645 228858	Instant Direct	Postal	\$5,000	5.40	Year
0800 901109	Instant Access Postal	Postal	\$10,000	5.85	Year
0800 901109	Instant Access Postal	Postal	\$25,000	6.05	Year
<b>NatWest BS</b>					
0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	\$2,500	6.10	Year
0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	\$10,000	6.20	Year
0115 956 4422	Direct Reserve	20 day P	\$25,000	6.40	Year
0181 858 8212	One Year Term Share	1 Year	\$2,500	6.50	Year

01202 502404	MICA	Instant	\$2,500	5.00	Month
01422 333333	Asset Reserve	Instant	\$10,000	4.00	Quarter
0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	\$10,000	4.35	Year
0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	\$25,000	4.65	Year
<b>Yorkshire BS</b>					
0800 378836	Fixed Rate Bond	31/3/98	\$5,000	6.50F	Maturity
0800 505000	Fixed Rate Bond	31/12/98	\$2,500	6.75F	Year
0345 665622	Fixed Rate Bond	30/1/99	\$1,000	7.50F	Year
0800 603010	Fixed Rate Bond	31/10/01	\$5,000	7.55F	Year

01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$8,575	7.30F	Year
0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$5,000	7.45F	Year
0645 720721	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$1,000	7.00	Year
01222 344188	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$500	6.80	Year
<b>West Bromwich BS</b>					
0121 607 2415	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$3,000	7.45F	Year
0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$5,000	7.45F	Year
01372 747771	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$3,000	7.20	Year
0645 720721	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	\$1,000	7.00	Year

0181 680 7172	Premium Life	1 year	\$5,000	4.65FN	Year
0800 838020	Premium Life	2 year	\$5,000	5.55FN	Year
0181 207 9007	Pinnacle Insurance	3 years	\$3,000	5.80FN	Year
0181 207 9007	Pinnacle Insurance	4 years	\$3,000	6.00FN	Year
0181 207 9007	Pinnacle Insurance	5 years	\$3,000	6.25FN	Year
<b>Newcastle Bank Gibraltar</b>					
00 350 76163	Now Access	Instant	\$25,000	6.30	Year
01481 714600	Offshore 30	30 day	\$25,000	6.35	Year
01624 663432	90 Day Notice	90 day	\$25,000	6.55	Year
01481 714600	Millennium Bond	1/1/00	\$10,000	7.50F	Year

<b>Investment Accounts</b>		1 month	\$20	4.75	Year
			\$500	5.25	Year
			\$25,000	5.50	Year
<b>Income Bonds</b>		3 months	\$2,000	6.00	Month
			\$25,000	6.25	Month
<b>Capital Bond</b>		Series J	\$100	6.65F	Maturity
<b>First Option Bonds</b>		12 months	\$1,000	6.00F	Year
			\$20,000	6.25F	Year
<b>Pensioner's Guaranteed Income Bond</b>		Series 3	\$500	7.00F	Month
<b>NS Certificates (tax-free)</b>		43rd issue	\$100	5.35F	Maturity
		9th Index linked	\$100	2.50-3pi	Maturity
<b>Children's Bond</b>		Issue H	\$25	6.75F	Maturity

P: post only. F: fixed rate. All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest. All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01822 50677. 10 October 1996.

SELLING YOUR ENDOWMENT FOR BIGGER MONEY  
CALL SEC NOW  
0181 207 1666

SEC, Britain's biggest buyer of endowments will pay you much more than the surrender value.  
Phone our helpful staff now for that extra cash and peace of mind. Your policy must be at least 8 years old and satisfy our selection criteria. FAX: 0181 207 4950  
AP SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC  
SEC House, 49 Theobald St., Birmingham, B3 7NQ

Find out why pension plans are not all the same.

Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

- THE EQUITABLE LIFE:
- Pays no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.
  - Has no shareholders.

- OUR PENSION PLAN:
- Lets you retire earlier or later than planned - without penalty.
  - Lets you vary your contributions - without penalty.
  - Provides full return of fund in the event of death before retirement.

So, if you would like to find out more about how The Equitable Pension Plan is not the same as most others, call us direct on (0990) 38 48 58 or send off the coupon below for more information by post and by telephone.

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products  
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority  
The Equitable Life, FREEPOST WILSON STREET, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR  
I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed ☐ I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐ DNRAG  
NAME (Mr/Ms/Miss) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
By post: Please send this coupon to The Equitable Life, Wilson Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR. If you prefer, you may also send it to your nearest Equitable branch.

The Equitable Life  
You profit from our principles

Advertisement

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RETIRE WITH A MILLION - START TAKING YOUR OWN ADVICE.

AND IF YOUR MIND clings shut at the mere mention of the word 'million', consider this: If you add up your lifetime earnings - past and future - you will see that you will almost certainly earn a fortune in your lifetime. It could add up to a million pounds - or more.

The trouble is, like most people you'll earn it - and spend it.

Of course, what you could be doing is taking this fortune and turning some of it into another fortune - the one you want to end up with.

But you'll probably say you've been too busy to attend to this yourself - or perhaps managing money today just seems too complicated...

Maybe you think you should entrust your money to an expert. If you do, you may be disappointed. The shocking truth is many professional fund managers are not much good at what they do. Most of them do more poorly than the Stockmarket as a whole. The only certainty about letting others manage your money is that you'll let them help themselves to a chunk of it through their fees.

IN FACT the widely-accepted Random Walk theory says that you will beat the pros at picking shares by simply blindfolding yourself and sticking a pin in the share table in your newspaper.

Incredible, but true.

Look at unit trusts. The vast majority of them underperform the Stockmarket in general over time. They would have actually lost you money compared to buying shares at random!

So the question is: Why pay fat commissions and 'management fees' to have a so-called professional manage your money?

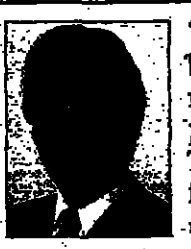
What about seeking advice from a financial adviser - someone who'll give you sound and impartial advice on what best to do with your hard-earned money?

Well, you're going to have to look quite hard.

Firstly, most financial advisers aren't independent. They're not even allowed to call themselves that. That's because they're employed by the big financial firms managers to sell their products, and their products alone. They're really just salesmen.

So what about those who are allowed to call themselves independent financial advisers? Consider this fact: most IFAs earn their living from commission from the products they sell. Yet some of the best investments are run by firms which pay no commission. How likely do you think it is they'll be on your IFA's shortlist of recommended investments if there's a commission-paying firm offering a remotely similar product?

But... let's face it... most people find today's world of personal finances too complicated - and too baffling. In short, they're stuck. They're successful in many other respects. But when it comes to investing and money management they have no real plan. All because there's been no simple way to get started. That is, until now.



"At last it is possible for a normal human being to learn the ins-and-outs of money-management and investing without all sorts of pompous and confusing technical twaddle... The Successful Personal Investing programme from IRS is like a great breath of fresh air."

Douglas Moffitt, TV and Radio Financial Commentator

Stockmarket will go up - and at the same time but that it will go down - believe it or not, it is perfectly possible to make a profit whether it goes up or goes down.

Or how you can use your pension plan to turn £780 into £1,000 overnight - or more if you're a higher rate taxpayer.

Of course there's a good deal more. But as you can see Successful Personal Investing is definitely not just some collection of 'hot tips' or boring technical mumbo-jumbo.

Always everything is spelled out step-by-step, like a simple recipe. So you take just those steps that are right for your own circumstances.

READ IN MIND TOO, that the publisher of SPI, Independent Research Services (IRS), is not linked in any way to any vested interest. It is not connected with any Stockbroker or Insurance Agency or Unit Trust or the like... and it has no commissioned Salesmen or Agents. So you can be absolutely sure that what you learn will be for no one's benefit but yours.

Let's face it - most people spend more time planning a fortnight's holiday than learning how to manipulate their money.

Surprisingly, SPI takes only a couple of hours of your time a month. There is no burning of the midnight oil.

True, money isn't everything. But it does help. SPI shows you how to start on the way towards having that million - and being able to tell yourself that you're a 'millionaire'. So, before your mind clings shut over that word again... why not at least take the opportunity to see for yourself? You can now get to look over the first two lessons with no obligation for 10 days just by posting the coupon below. And whatever you decide, Lesson 1 is yours to keep - FREE!

**SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING (SPI)** is the much acclaimed, up-to-the-minute, 'hands-on', self-instruction course in investing and money management that you follow at home... at your own pace... with no pressure.

In simple language it outlines step-by-step how to build your own financial independence... and how to take the million or so you'll probably earn in your lifetime and get started on building the million you want to end up with... and all without depending on some 'expert'... and without paying for advice that may not be truly independent.

THE SPI COURSE starts with the basics and then goes on to the 'tricks of the trade' - the simple, tried and true techniques that enable you to protect and then pyramid profits to build wealth even faster.

First - you'll quickly see how to 'uncover' up to an extra £2,000 a year to invest - money you probably didn't even know you had.

Second - you'll be surprised at how easy it is to learn how to evaluate pension schemes... gilts... shares... Personal Equity Plans... Enterprise Investment Schemes... property investments... simple strategies that can slash your tax bill... In fact, all the important areas of investing and money management.

Third - And maybe most rewarding you'll learn in detail about a number of really but simple 'behind-the-scenes' techniques that you don't usually get to find out about at all. The kind that can often boost your returns 30, 30, even 50 per cent more - sometimes just in months - not years.

FOR EXAMPLE, a little technique called a 'straddle', lets you bet that the

POST THIS RISK-FREE FORM TODAY TO:  
Independent Research Services, FREEPOST, Marlborough Road, Aldbourne, WILTSHIRE SN6 2BR

Here's how the SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING PROGRAM WORKS:

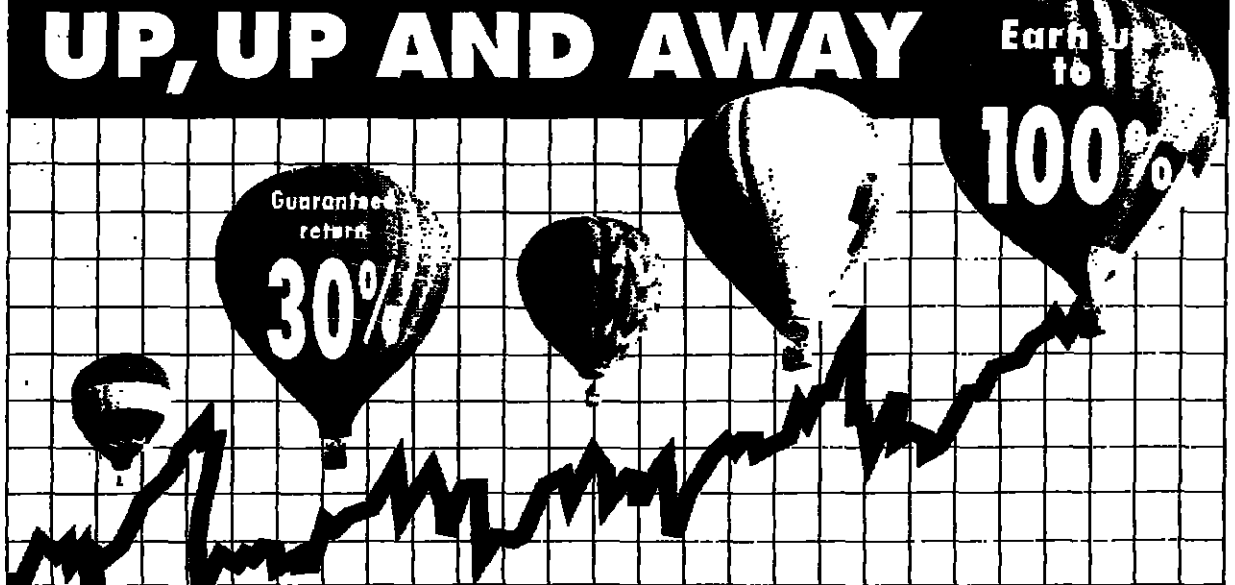
- 1) Two lessons are made available every 3 to 4 weeks, at £11.35 each, plus postage.
- 2) You may review each of the 35 lessons in the course for 10 days - at no charge - and 'pay-as-you-go' only for those you decide to keep.
- 3) You may cancel this arrangement at any time, and drop out of the course whenever you want.

On this basis, please send me the first two lessons. I'll review them at no charge. Then, I'll either send back Lesson 3 - or pay for it only if I decide I want to continue. In any case I may keep Lesson 1 - free.

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

We may occasionally allow selected reputable companies to mail you with interesting offers.  
☐ Please tick here if you'd prefer not to have this opportunity.

17117-4



UP, UP AND AWAY  
If you have a lump sum of £3,000 or more to invest consider the benefits of our Equity Linked Deposit Account.

As you would expect from a fixed rate account it provides you with total security and a competitive level of return which is guaranteed whatever happens to interest rates in general. But, more importantly, it also offers you the potential for a much, much higher level of growth.

This is because the interest rate paid by our Equity Linked Deposit Account follows - or tracks - the FTSE 100 stock market index. So without having to actually invest in stocks and shares (in other words without the risks or costs associated with stock market investment) you can enjoy the same type of reward.

In fact, if you leave your investment untouched for the agreed term of 5 1/2 years, you could earn up to 100%.

Another benefit of leaving your investment untouched for the agreed term is that we guarantee you will earn a minimum of 30% gross interest (CAR 4.89%).

The account is only available direct by post and is operated by First National Building Society, one of the longest established building societies in Ireland or the UK (founded in 1861) with assets under management in excess of £3.9 billion.

OFFER CLOSES 12th November

Please call free, for an information pack on  
**0800 558844**  
or return the coupon below to our freepost address.

**FIRST NATIONAL**  
BUILDING SOCIETY  
REGISTERED IN IRELAND  
First National Building Society, Sir William Atkins House,  
Ashley Avenue, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5AS

FREE INFORMATION PACK

Please complete and return to our freepost address

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY  
FREEPOST SEA 0652 EPSOM, SURREY KT18 5BR

TAQ01

First National Building Society is a signatory to the Banking Code of Practice and is also a member of the UK Banking Ombudsman Scheme







## Pet corner

## Dog treats

Why do people have pets? The question has spawned many a psychology PhD, but question marks still hang over the habit. Why, for instance, do half the people who dogs put so much effort into trying to deny their very nature?

Dog people divide into two well-delineated categories – those who have lost all understanding of hygiene or aesthetics and those who would own a walking, talking, living doll if they could buy one. The former cherish grease-stained sofas, hairs in the carpet and flecks of dried gravy on the kitchen floor, and exchange French kisses with the little darling. The other lot, well, a dog or a cat, however endearing its character quirks, is still at heart a ruffian that likes to spend time belly-down in mud and rolling in dead things. Why we pretend otherwise is a mystery.

Still, it's great for trade. A pet, like a baby, opens up a whole new world of shopping. As the valley girl said, the only thing that distinguishes us from the apes is our ability to accessorise. The brotherhood of companies dedicated to meeting this desire grows by the year, and we hand over tens of millions of pounds in pursuit of the perfect place for an animal evolved for sleeping under a bush to lay its head.

One such is the Comfy Pet and People Company of Bradninch, Devon. Their "Waggers" mail-order brochure, a fold-out of accoutrements for the pampered pooch, is terrific: an education in how refined the needs of pet-owners have become. It features five different types of doggy-bed. Their original hollow-fibre cushion (£18.50-£43.50), first made by owner Carolyn Skinner six years ago, has been joined by a "snuggler" (£10-£16), an elasticated fleece which turns any box into a bed, a plethora of basket liners, a car boot-shaped duvet (£19-£30) and one on legs in case Lambkin is bothered by drafts. Oh, and there's also the tunnel (£25.50-£34.50), a mattress-and-duvet combo for Rambo to crawl into.

There's more. The presentation, and the greens, navies and tartans of the products, is suggestive of country living, though one gets the feeling that much of the appeal is to the twisted urban soul. There's a brilliant Dri-bag (£11.95-£27.95), a sewn-up towel into which you zip Rover when he's damp and stinky. Waterproof bed-liners protect the hollow-fibre "if your dog is wet, muddy, incontinent, in season or sick". We don't lock Bonzo in the garage these days. Some things – a flea collar made to look like a Country and Western bandana (£4.50) – are just plain daft, and some are witty. Top fave is the catnip vet doll for chewing, clawing and beating up, though the joke will probably be lost on Tiddles.

Phone them on 01392 881285 if you fancy a waxed cotton whippet coat to go with your Barbour. If you don't, you're probably happily rubbing Lassie down with the towel you'll be using later when you get out of the bath.

Serena Mackesy

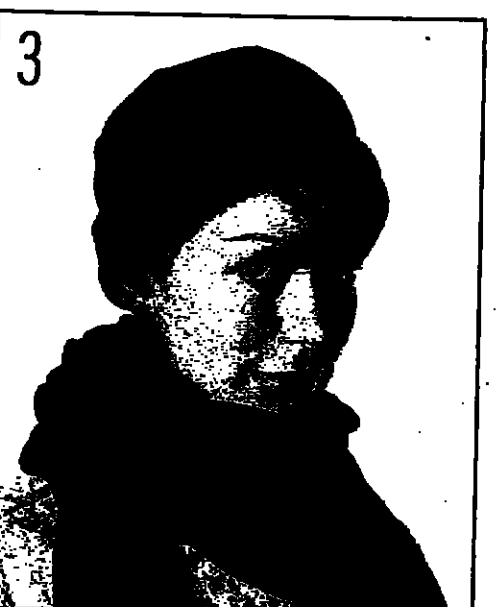
## Six of the best hats and scarves



1 Ski-tie hat, Lucy Barlow £28 and M&S scarf, £12. Look cooler than a snow-boarder in Lucy Barlow's ski-tie hat with "Snow" logo. Made from ultra fashionable bouclé wool it comes in ink blue, black, cream and brown. Marks & Spencer have a great range of winter warmers. This soft bouclé scarf comes in charcoal and grey. Lucy Barlow, 0181-968 5333; M&S 0171-935 4422



2 Stone and cream scarf, £38 and hat, £34. Jigsaw have gone for a very Seventies look with woolly hats and pom-pom scarves. Chunky cream and stone wool hat £34, scarf £38. Call 0181-878 8443 for branches.



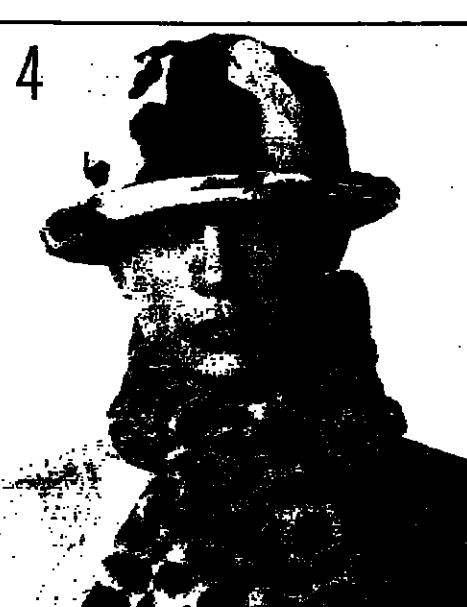
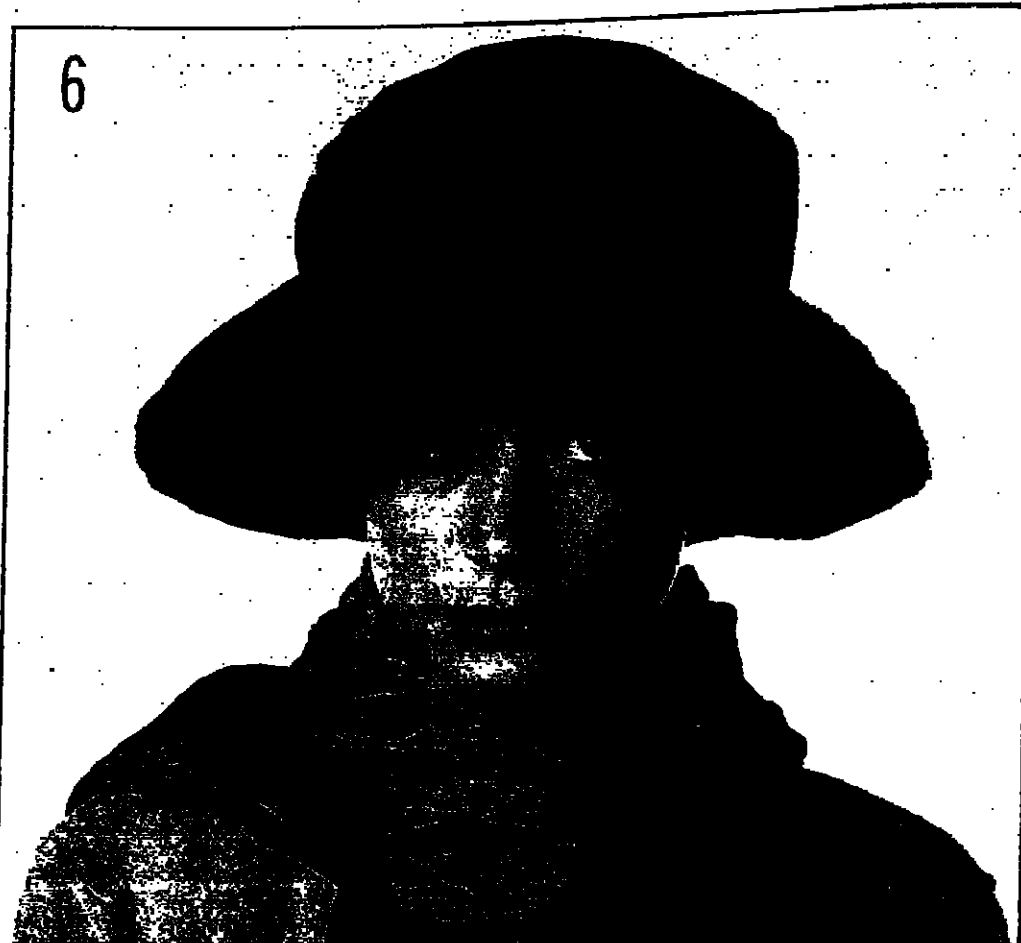
3 Chenille hat, £12, and scarf, £7. Bhs. Another fabric that you can't be seen without this season is chenille and you will find plenty of it at Bhs. This matching hat and scarf in deep blood red are good value and feel wonderfully soft. Call 0171-262 3288 for branches.

4 Animal print hat, £55, L K Bennett and scarf, Accessorize. If you really want to be one of the herd team-up LK Bennett's sleek Fresian hat with a gorgeous collar-cum-scarf from Accessorize, these are also available in leopard and zebra. LK Bennett, 0181-947 2038; Accessorize, 0171-313 3000 for branches.

5 "crusher" hat, £19.99 and Scarf £24, Accessorize. Whatever you, or the weather does to it this chenille "crusher" hat will hold its shape. Double the chenille with a cosy woven scarf in matching beige. Accessorize, 0171-313 3000 for branches.

6 Large, chocolate brown fur hat, £55, LK Bennett, scarf, £24.99, Accessorize. Chocolate is the colour this season and this fur hat from LK Bennett, with its thick sumptuous fur and generous height, is the Black Forest gateau of warm winter hats. Combine this with one of Accessorize's velvet scarves. LK Bennett, 0181-947 2038.

Stylist: Rose Hammick  
Photographs: Tony Buckingham



# Two FREE magazines

## 10 titles to choose from

If our great new listings guide hasn't tempted you to charge off to the cinema, gallop off to a gallery or tune in to the TV, then maybe we can entertain you with our great free magazine offer.

We've joined forces with COMAG Magazine Marketing to offer readers of The Independent and the Independent on Sunday up to two free magazines from the selection of 10 great titles shown below. Each day, we will be focusing on a different one to give you a flavour of what's on offer and to help you choose the titles to suit you. So to enjoy up to £7.25 worth of great free reading all you have to do is follow the instructions below.

## How to qualify

- Numbered tokens will be printed in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday each day from today until 21 October. Today we print Token 1.
- Simply collect four of these, ensuring that they are all

differently numbered, and attach them to one of the application vouchers published in The Independent on 15, 19 and 21 October.

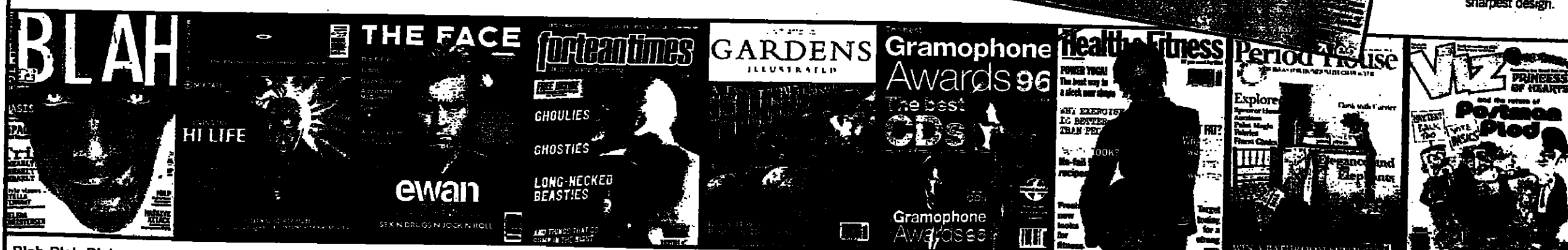
- Complete the application voucher indicating which magazine you would like and present it to your nearest magazine retailer.
- You may claim a second free magazine by collecting a second set of four differently numbered tokens and attaching them to a second application voucher.

In the unlikely event that your chosen magazine is not available from your retailer, please be prepared to select an alternative title. The closing date for claiming your free magazine(s) is Thursday 31 October 1996.



Arena is simply Britain's most fashionable magazine for men

Full of award-winning photography and first-class journalism, Arena offers a complete lifestyle guide for the modern man: fashion, sport, motoring, music, travel, books, and - how could we forget - sex. Often copied but never bettered, Arena features the finest fashion pages, the funniest and most incisive writers, and the sharpest design.



Blah Blah Blah  
Pan-European, pre-millennium, post-pop, tongue-in-cheek... it is, are you?

DJ  
The underground dance and club culture magazine

The Face  
The Face is the most fashionable magazine in the world

Fortean Times  
The journal of strange phenomena

Gardens Illustrated  
The art of gardening

Gramophone  
The best classical music magazine in the world

Health & Fitness  
Everything you need to know about a healthier and fitter lifestyle

Period House  
New ideas for homes with character

Viz  
Britain's funniest magazine  
(\*Manufacturers estimate)

THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAY

## Terms &amp; Conditions

1. This offer is available to residents of the UK only.
2. Maximum of 2 free magazines per household.
3. To qualify for the offer, applicants must collect 4 differently numbered tokens and attach them to a completed application voucher.

4. If you have a Starter Token from Time Out it can be used as any numbered token, but only one Starter Token can be used to make up your token collection.
5. Tokens and completed application vouchers must be exchanged at magazine retailers by 31 October 1996.
6. Only tokens and application

vouchers printed in The Independent and Independent on Sunday are valid. Photocopies of tokens and application vouchers are not acceptable.

7. The offer is for one free magazine per correct application. The magazine must be selected from those featured here and listed on the application voucher.

8. The offer is subject to availability. There is no cash alternative.
9. The promoters are Newspaper Publishing plc and COMAG on behalf of the magazine publishers. COMAG, are the leading third party magazine marketing company in the UK, representing 100 publishers.

THE INDEPENDENT

Token  
1

THE INDEPENDENT



## staying in

6. And which women were being referred to in these:

- (i) "— is so perfect she makes strong men weak, weak men faint and women don a pair of Vivella pyjamas and go to bed with a packet of Hobnobs" (Allison Pearson).
- (ii) "She's a complete irrelevance, of no importance whatsoever. Constitutionally, she is completely and utterly meaningless." (Ben Pimlott)
- (iii) "Given a choice between dinner with — or 15 men. — won hands down." (John Major)

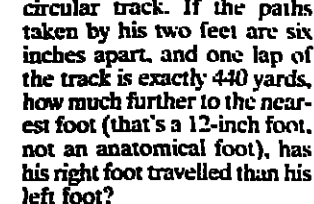
(Answers below)

(Answers below)



## Numeracy

**26 September Perplexity answers:**  
Presbyterian, Evangelical, Protes-  
tant. Winner: E Spice  
(Bournemouth)



**By Spurtus**      **across**

**across**

- 1 Moment (5)
- 4 Reaping implement (6)
- 9 Exact copy (7)
- 10 Playing area (5)
- 11 After deductions (4)
- 12 Chemical element (7)
- 13 Garden tool (3)
- 14 Reflected sound (4)
- 16 Means of recording (4)
- 18 Insect (3)
- 20 Distance runner (7)
- 21 Russian ruler (4)
- 24 Cuban dance (5)
- 25 Illness (7)
- 26 Join armed forces (6)
- 27 Waist measurement (5)

**Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:**  
ACROSS: 7 Pollen, 8 Easier (Polynesia), 10 Rurally, 11 Ounce, 12 Left, 13 Downy, 17 Lithé, 18 Pier, 22 Ridge, 23 Neptune, 24 Pigsty, 25 Flagon.  
DOWN: 1 Sparkle, 2 Clarify, 3 Kebib, 4 Masonry, 5 Kilns, 6 Greek, 9 Xynophone, 14 Jervy, 151 Inrow, 16 Orleans, 19 Granb, 20 Adae, 21 Soil.

Fifty years ago, international chess emerged from the shadow of the Second World War with a tournament at Groningen in the Netherlands. Mikhail Botvinnik took first place ahead of the former world champion Max Euwe, setting himself on course for the world championship which he won two years later.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of that great event, the Staunton Chess Club of Groningen, organisers of the 1946 tournament, invited all seven surviving players to a reunion. They also asked their guests how they would like to spend their time and, to a man, they replied: "Playing chess, of course".

At the end, 23...Qxc6 loses to 24.Ne7+, while 23...Nxc6 just leaves the queen to be taken immediately.

**Quiz of the Week answers**

1. Sun editor Stuart Higgins falls for video hoax
2. A Penny Black, 2d Blue and 1d Red on one envelope sold for that sum at Christie's
3. Scotland's soccer walkover in Estonia
4. German Telekom are refusing to supply phone boxes for use as shower cubicles
5. i-d, ii-b, iii-a, iv-c, v- (i) Cindy Crawford (ii) The Duchess of York (iii) Norma Major

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number,  
c/o The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

### zygos is

the professional person's introduction agency

Professional people don't meet each other that often in their current social circle.

That's where Zygos can help.

We can help introduce, organize informally or occasionally, social and professional events for you.

Let's be friends in your circle.

LONDON 0171 429 6979	SCOTLAND 0115 554 5655	NORTHERN WEST 01246 582800	NORTHERN EAST 0191 261 2224
YORKSHIRE 0113 245 8787	MIDLANDS 0990 143078	SOUTHERN WEST 01256 585514	SOUTHERN EAST 01222 691200

### SpeakEasy

THE UK'S FST INSTANT MESSAGE EXCHANGE DATING SERVICE.

POOR CHANCE? NO! CHANCE! YES!

WE'RE TALKING DATING!

**0839 700 044**

CALL NOW! 0839 480 392  
0839 480 392

CALL NOW! 0839 480 392  
0839 480 392

CALL NOW! 0839 480 392  
0839 480 392

### STRATUS

The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency

Call them. Call them on  
0509 072 0075 for

- Brochure
- CD or Tape with further details

Descriptions of the  
most people, a video strip  
you may wish to meet

FREEPOST 300, London W11 3JL. Call and see for yourself.

### TRYST

TRYST IS A NATIONWIDE INTRODUCING AGENCY. WE'VE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR OVER 10 YEARS. FOR SUCCESSFUL RESULTS, WE'VE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ACCEPTABLE PEOPLE.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR TRULY PERSONAL SERVICE WITH SOME OLD FASHIONED VALUES AND INTEGRITY, AND FEELS THAT ARE WITHIN REACH?

TEL: HELEN SPAIN, DORSET HOUSE, AUSTINE, AUSTINE.

Your enquiry will be treated with complete confidentiality in particular. We have been in business for over 10 years.

### PERSONAL

"HOPEFULLY" SEEKING A PARTICULAR IRISHMAN

He was sitting on a bar stool in Mulligan Bar in Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin on the afternoon of Saturday 14 September 1996.

You were from the West of Ireland but worked in Germany. You were over for the All Ireland International. I was from outside Edinburgh, over for the weekend and to research my family tree. I was with a tall blonde friend. We talked, you asked if I knew any good places to go at night and if we would be going back to

My friend and I then sat at the alcove by the door to have lunch. As you left with your friend, you said we might see you tonight. I said hopefully. I will hope. If you remember the please contact Box No L1652

01865 771 986

01929 690 524

01929 690 524

01929 690 524

### Music...

Connect with women instantly!

up to 48 women on line now

the Phone Cafe

**0891 70 80 57**

### GUSTO

The dining club for gay men

**0171 336 6507**

### country walks...

UK'S BEST singles magazine. Free details + Bargain Offer: PERSON TO PERSON (Dept MD, PO Box 4, Goring-On-Thames, RG9 6BN). THE DINNERS CLUB (Est. '88). The nation's only countryside dining club for unattached professional/business people aged 28+.

TEL: 01184 860057. Business opportunities also available (01246) 588816.

SUCCESS STORIES - 1000's! RGVF regional info in Books Studio Centre Barre Kent Lakes 17th June 1996. 01474 588816. RGVF 1482.

### Intelligent

INTELLIGENT, FUN-LOVING, JOGGY brunettes, blue partying, good food and wine seeks a London based single man, 28-35, for laughs, lively conversation and friendship. Box No L1688.

INDEPENDENT FM MISSIES sharing Internet, lifestyle, lifestyle, books/films/theatre/sport/country & much more! Ldn based driver, 30, 5'10", 120lb, 100% British. Bestest released 1996 M 46+. Box No L1688.

### MAN, YOUNG 70, positive outlook,

ATTRACT. OPEN-MINDED M | CELEBRATING 25 YRS OF LIFE

### ATTACHED?

Yet need a friend

Subscribe now for an informative newsletter.

Box No L140

0181 955 3304  
0181 958 9657

**Additions**

No computer are used. A personal, professional and confidential consultation service available upon request.

**Additions**

as featured on BBC Radio, ITV, and American TV.

### PERFECT PARTNERS OF BATH

SOUTH WEST S. WALES

Phone 0114 444 444

All clients are welcome

TEL: (01225) 482080

### ...and plenty of sauce.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.

INDEPENDENT HEARTS

By placing an advertisement in the The Independent Hearts section of *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* you will immediately be in contact with over 1.66 million readers.\*

The cost for your advertisement, published in the first available editions of the Saturday "Weekend" and Sunday "Real Life" sections is just £5.00 per line including V.A.T. (Box No is an additional £10.00, please cross here if you do not require a Box No ☐).

Simply write your advertisement in the spaces below and fill in the coupon - Minimum 2 lines.  
(N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

(N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Postcode: .....  
Telephone (daytime): .....  
Signature: .....

*All advertisements must be prepaid. Cheques should be made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit my:*

[illegible]

The Independent cannot

guarantee that respondents will receive

a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will

When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

**We would advise reader and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.**

**ATTRACTION OPEN-MINDED IN GRAD, 33 seeks amiable adventurous F 18-33 for friendship NW bound. Photo copy Box 116 45645**

**MALE, 40, PROFESSIONAL**, good-looking, warm, easygoing, no flim, seeks slim, attractive female for leading relationship. West Yorks area. Box No 1:1642.

**TALL, ATTRACTIVE, DIVORCED** man likes wine, dining, travel, GSOH. 38. seeks female, 29-38. Box No 1:1643.

**NOISY 22 YR OLD BLONDE** female into rugby, wine, food & sports. screening out for quality guy with impeccable manners and talents in the above! Photo required. Box No 1:1644.

**WYORKS. Must be interesting!**  
**MID-30's, Tall, DARK, educated** North American, likes cooking, sports, travelling, language and politics. Is looking for a smart and bright woman for a serious relationship. Box No 1; 1644.

**ATTACHED MALE ACADEMIC, 43,**

**ATTRACTIVE MALE, 25;** into arts, sports & music, seeks attractive female, 20-30, for fun & relationship. London/Herts area. Photo

**BENEDICT/SLAVA/PADDY/ERIC**  
(child-centred, gentle, 40%) seeks  
female with similar values. Box No  
16167.

**Beatrice/Gail/Jane/Wanda**  
(30's) W.Yorks D.N.O. Box No  
11649.

**2 CREDIT CARDS REQUIRED** by 2  
london ladies for our girls wends  
in the country (owners can come  
with cards only if in possession of  
E50H). Tel/Phone please chaps

and giving by nature and have  
much to offer. Photo essential.  
Cheshire/NW area. Box No 11616.

**LIFE-LOVING ACADEMIC**, athlete,  
38, optimistically handsome but  
possibly pithecol, all male but  
sensitive, seeks exciting woman  
for bold uncorkings, poetry, and

**INDEPENDENT HEARTS** 

# The

The new for 2

jar.

**New Chicken Tonight, for two.**

**HILTERN MILLS SINGLE, slim,**  
attractive, articulate lady, wide  
interests. [ASDAW.milner@bt.com](mailto:ASDAW.milner@bt.com).

**To advertise**

in this section  
please call  
**0171 293 2347**

for days & nights out, laughs and  
friendship. Box No 1:022.

**To advertise  
in this section  
please call  
0171 293 2347**





## The big picture

### The Terroriser

Sun 12.55am C4

Unless, of course, you want to sit through Jonathan Demme's terribly over-blown *Silence of the Lambs*, why not sample the quieter delights – and delights there are – of the resurgent Taiwanese cinema. Edward Yang is its chief auteur – and this is his complex, multi-stranded tale, meshing together the stories of some very different people – a research scientist, a female novelist, a fugitive gang member – through the device of a woman making prank telephone calls.

## Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND  
by Gerard Gilbert

You probably never saw *Miss Borloch* – but sometime in the early 1970s this now forgotten masterpiece won the Golden Phallus Award at the International Wet Dream Festival in Frankfurt (every mantlepiece should have one). Its star was the young Mary Millington, subject of one of this weekend's entries in Channel Four's *Fame Factor* "zone". Sex and Fame – the Mary Millington Story (Sat C4).

Now, Millington was a woman so deeply embedded in the 1970s that she should have been born with a pair of furry dice (aptly enough, she chose to kill herself in 1979). She was also Britain's first porno star, a woman with an even flimsier grasp on reality than on her clothes. But in the words of her many admirers (there exists a Mary Millington fan club, by the way, staffed by alarmingly young members), she took "porn out of Soho and into Essex".

*Sex and Fame* is a fascinating trawl through Britain's burgeoning porn industry and its friendly reception in the suburbs. And if the similarities with Marilyn Monroe are overstated, Millington certainly managed to notch up (albeit for money)

some bedtime companions nearly as illustrious as Monroe's. The Shah of Persia didn't like any kinky stuff, you'll be relieved to learn.

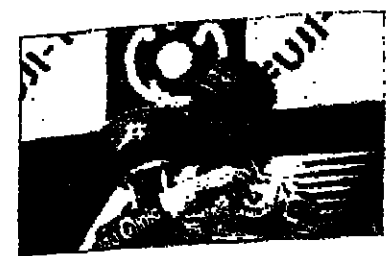
The Big Question (Sun BBC1) immediately manages to throw up three hostages to fortune for a programme going out at 9.30am. Why, asks presenter Mark Lawson, are we here? Is there anybody out there? And where will it all end? Where indeed. Sir Anthony Hopkins is first up – but for all the purported weightiness of the questions, they serve here only to produce a bog-standard showbiz interview. Warned up by Lawson with questions about his alcoholism, Hopkins sighs that it's "a well-worn, boring old subject" – as indeed any visit to a newspaper cuttings library will confirm. "Oh... the voice," he almost moans, when confronted with the story of how a "voice" saved him from the bottle.

Deadly Voyage (Sat BBC2) is a behind-the-scenes *Screen Two* drama recreating the voyage of those ill-fated Ghanaian stowaways you might have read about, butchered at sea by the Ukrainian crew who discovered them. One survived to shop them to

the French authorities, in whose country they had docked en route to New York. Joss Ackland plays the drunken former Soviet Navy captain in charge.

Equinox: Killer Bees (Sun C4) is better value, looking at how the fierce African honey bee has colonised all of South America and parts of North America. A sting from one of these charmers is simply a marker for the rest of the swarm – and 600 people have been killed since they were introduced nearly 40 years ago to boost honey production.

The South Bank Show (Sun ITV) shows that although the French may never quite have got the hang of pop music, they are second to none when it comes to a good *chanson*. *Chansons* are the sort of earthy, morally complex ballads made famous by the likes of Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour and Juliette Gréco. As with any art form, there are differences and antinomies. Gréco tells how she disliked the woman-bating Piaf. Aznavour claims (but not dismisses) Gréco as bourgeois. The film itself is a touch choppy, but it's inspired me to put some of the truly extraordinary Jacques Brel on my shopping list.

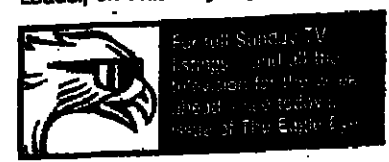


## The big match

### The Japanese Grand Prix

Sun 4.45am BBC2

Can Damon do it? Just like 20 years ago, the world championship will be decided in Japan, but the parallels would seem to favour Jacques Villeneuve rather than Damon Hill (above). It was the outsider, James Hunt, who overhauled the leader, Niki Lauder, on that rainy day in 1976.



# Saturday television and radio

## BBC 1

- 7.00 Bay City (R) (8806367).  
7.25 News, Weather (9531763).  
7.30 Children's BBC: The Morph Files. 7.40 Robinson Sucree. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest.  
8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (2044727).  
9.15 Live and Kicking. Boyzone and the Spice Girls perform in the studio, and astronomer Patrick Moore is in the Hot Seat (S) (44937386).  
12.12 Weather (7475034).  
12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News. 1.05 Motor Racing: highlights of the qualifying session for the crucial final round of the Formula One World Championship from Suzuka. 1.35 Cycling: action from the World Road Championships in Lugano, Switzerland. 1.50 Racing from Ascot: the 2.00 Autumn Stakes. 2.10 Midcross: action from the Dunlop Masters at Farleigh Castle in Wiltshire. 2.25 Racing from Ascot: the 2.30 Wiltshire Donor Stakes. 2.40 Motorcross. 2.55 Racing from Ascot: the 3.00 Princess Royal Stakes. 3.10 Motorcross. 3.30 Racing from Ascot: the 3.35 Wiltshire Donor Stakes. 3.45 Football Half-Time. 3.55 Boxing: last night's Commonwealth light-welterweight championship fight in London between title-holder Andy Holligan of Liverpool and Zambian challenger, Felix Dwyer. 4.40 Final Score (S) (95474893).  
5.20 News, Weather (2505831).  
5.30 Regional News and Weather (745367).  
5.35 Cartoon (555270).  
5.55 Children in Need. Terry Wogan and Gaby Roslin launch this year's appeal (S) (748454).  
6.05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. Brian Conley guest stars (S) (864619).  
7.05 Due South. Last in series (S) (760812).  
7.50 The Nightly Lottery Live – the 100th Birthday. The guest is violinist Vanessa Mae (S) (385585).  
8.05 Casualty. A chlorine spillage at a swimming pool bustles the TV docs (S) (363744).  
8.55 News and Sport, Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (134102).  
9.15 *Love, Lust for Murder* (Nathaniel Guttman 1993 US). Two couples go on holiday together. Wife nukes, or one starts an affair with husband number two, kills his wife and tries to blame the murder on her own husband. If you follow (4103560).  
10.40 Match of the Day. Manchester United v Liverpool at Old Trafford is the main event (S) (3686270).  
11.50 They Think It's All Over. Andy Gray and Jo Brand are the guests from last Thursday (R) (185763).  
12.20 Top of the Pops (S) (747288).  
12.55 *April Fool's Day* (Fred Walton 1986 US). An heiress invites old college friends to stay at her luxury island off the April Fool's weekend. Then, as they say, the killings start (1809023).  
2.20 Weather (811865). To 2.55am.  
REGIONS. Scott 5.35pm Aunty's TV Favourites. 9.15 Children in Need. 9.25 Film: Lust for Murder. 10.55 SportsScene – Match of the Day.

## BBC 2

- 6.05 Town Portraits. Bishop Auckland (R) (3835725).  
6.15 Gold Yearning (R) (642980).  
7.05 *Danny Boy* (Oswald Mitchell 1941). A Broadway star, Ann Todd, returns home to Britain to help the War effort (645167).  
8.20 Open University: How We Study Children (S212812). 8.45 Four Towns and a Circus (S168928). 9.10 A Tale of Two Capitals – Paris and Rome (7324386).  
10.00 Chantale (S) (1432164).  
10.35 Network East (S) (9170367).  
11.20 Bollywood or Bust! (S) (3138164).  
11.50 *Madeline* (David Lean 1949 UK). Ann Todd again, in the second of two films she made with her then husband, David Lean. She plays a young woman who comes under suspicion when the Frenchman with whom she has been having a secret affair, is found poisoned (46205763).  
1.40 Film 96 with Barry Newman (S) (4757541).  
2.10 *San Francisco* (W.S. Van Dyke 1936 US). Lavish MGM disaster movie, culminating in a magnificent recreation of the 1906 earthquake. Singer Jeanette MacDonald, casino owner Clark Gable, and pugacious priest Spencer Tracy learn how to pull together (733675).  
4.00 *The King and Four Queens* (Raul Walsh 1956 US). The second Clark Gable film of the afternoon finds him playing a cowboy on the run who plays on the emotions of four women, hoping to discover the whereabouts of \$100,000 from a stagecoach holdup (8136367).  
5.20 TOP 2 (S) (927528).  
6.05 Rhodes. 4/8 (S) (102454).  
7.00 News and Sport, Weather (670909).  
7.15 Assignment. Julian O'Halloran reports from Israel (782034).  
8.00 What the Papers Say (S) (978473).  
8.10 The Unthinkable. See Preview, above (S) (368299).  
9.00 Have I Got News for You (S) (7676).  
9.30 Screen Two Deadly Vows. See Preview, above (S) (45831).  
11.00 *The Butcher's Wife* (Terry Hughes 1991 US). Rather likeable low-key romantic comedy. Demi Moore plays a clairvoyant from the sticks who marries a New York City lawyer and starts working her magic on his Greenwich Village entourage. With Jeff Daniels (S) (741831).  
12.40 *Motorcycle Gang* (Edward L. Cain 1957 US). Drive-in mayhem about a motorcycle gang (Followed by Weather) (6167961).  
1.55 *The Oklahoma Woman* (Roger Corman 1956 US). B-movie western (4392232).  
3.05 *Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye* (Gordon Douglas 1950 US). Cracking James Cagney vehicle finds him escaping from prison and marrying a beautiful socialite who knows nothing of his past (564110).  
4.45 Japanese Grand Prix. Can Damon do it? Live coverage for the crucial final of the Formula One World Championship (33936). To 7.00am.

## ITV/London

- 6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert! 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gangways. 8.50 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (7512589).  
9.25 Wow. MNS play their new single (S) (2439885).  
11.00 The News MNS again – joined by East 17 and Cilla Black (S) (1638).  
11.30 The Chart Show (S) (81980).  
12.30 Love Bites. Series looking at romance, relationships and love. This week, why do boys always brag about their conquests? And can you be too fat or spotty to get a girlfriend? (75259).  
1.00 News and Weather (4803693).  
1.05 Local News, Weather (4803164).  
1.10 Champions League Special (38385265).  
1.40 Movies, Games and Videos (6229831).  
2.15 *The Big Money* (John Paddy Carstairs 1962 UK). Incompetent thief steals a suitcase full of counterfeit money. Comedy starring Ian Carmichael and Kathleen Harrison (506218).  
3.50 *Seaview* 2032. (S) (8059831).  
4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (7789657).  
5.05 London Tonight. Sports Results (Followed by LWT Weather) (5790657).  
5.20 News Watch. CJ befriends a homeless eccentric (S) (4192947).  
6.15 Gladiators (S) (976763).  
7.15 Blind Date (S) (972947).  
8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (269725).  
8.45 ITN News, Weather, Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) (149034).  
9.00 *Alright on the Night's Cock-Up Trip*. Avuncular Denis Norden presents 101 brand new TV out-takes (S) (2473).  
10.00 *The Silence of the Lambs* (Jonathan Demme 1991 US). Anthony Hopkins smacked his lips into superstardom as Hannibal Lecter in Demme's highly popular – but, for my money, disappointing – depiction of Thomas Harris's scary bestseller (director Michael Mann came closer to the dark heart of Harris's book in his excellent *Manhunter*). Jodie Foster is the FBI agent sent to debrief Lecter for clues about a serial killer. But can she escape with her soul? (85340744).  
12.15 *Funny Business*. Focusing on Harry Hill and the wonderful John Shuttleworth (S) (45961).  
12.45 *The Great American Sex Scandal* (Michael Schultz 1989 US). The lives of 12 average Americans are turned upside down when they are selected to serve as jurors on an embezzlement case that turns into the most sensational sex scandal of the decade. Starring Lynn Redgrave, Heather Locklear and Madchen Amick (415955).  
2.25 The Chart Show (R) (S) (7708787).  
3.15 E! News Review (3720139).  
4.05 Night Shift (4412077).  
4.10 God's Gift (R) (4573665).  
5.05 Coach. One of Haydn's former players develops cancer from steroid abuse (R) (S) (8663416).  
5.30 News (10707). To 6.00am.

## Channel 4

- 6.50 The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (9095164).  
7.20 Really Wild Animals (8802541).  
7.45 First Edition (8698034).  
8.00 Transworld Sport (78657).  
9.00 The Morning Line. Racing tips (S) (70928).  
10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (S) (79780).  
11.00 Blitz (57744).  
12.00 Rawhide (534560).  
12.55 *Edge of Darkness* (Lewis Milestone 1943 US). Very dark for a wartime morale-raiser. Milestone's movie casts Errol Flynn and Ann Sheridan as resistance leaders in a small Norwegian fishing town. The occupying Nazis are depicted as unrelentingly savage by scriptwriter Robert "The Hustler" Rossen (8855706).  
3.10 Channel 4 Racing from York. Derek Thompson introduces the 3.15 Coldstream Guards Rockingham Stakes; the 3.45 Crowther Homes Hicap Stakes; the 4.15 Coral Sprint Trophy, and the 4.45 Royal British Legion Insurance Services Stakes (S) (55921164).  
5.05 *Brookside* (S) (S) (3396909).  
6.30 Right to Reply (S) (589).  
7.00 News Summary and Weather (567265).  
7.05 The Great, the Good and the Dispossessed. Special programme, coinciding with the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty (who says they don't have lofty aims), looks at the nature of poverty in Britain today, what causes it, and suggests policies to tackle the problem (S) (5632725).  
8.30 *Birds of the Burning Soda*. Africa's Great Rift Valley has lakes that are now bitter alkaline. But one creature, the lesser flamingo, thrives on these soda lakes and millions congregate to form a great wildlife spectacle. Here it is (R) (1034).  
9.00 ER. A terminally ill patient begs Greene to help her die (R) (S) (463299).  
9.55 *Father Ted*. A militant feminist singer arrives on the tiny island, Ted is preparing to judge the annual Island Girls competition (R) (S) (289812).  
10.25 NYPD Blue. Sipowicz secretly relocates the corpse of a fellow detective who died on the job with a prostitute in a seamy motel (R) (S) (136454).  
11.25 *Sex and Fame – the Mary Millington Story*. See Preview, above (S) (351299).  
12.30 *Starstruck*. As the demand for celebrity lookalikes booms, a look at four people who make a living out of looking like someone famous, including a young Cliff Richard, a Marilyn Monroe lookalike and an Elton John clone (6580077).  
12.55 *The Rose* (Mark Rydell 1979 US). Bette Midler has rarely been better than in her first headline movie – playing the young singer burning herself out in the classic rock music mode. Alan Bates is unconvincing as her manager, but there's solid support from Harry Dean Stanton and Frederic Forrest (S) (44495690).  
3.25 *Tales from a Harp City*. Repeat True Stories film, and a winner of a Prix Italia, looks at showbiz wannabes from Sheffield (7077787). To 4.55am.

## ITV/Regions

- ANGLIA**  
As London except 12.30pm Champions of the Future (75299). 2.10 Sunrises (7455522). 2.55 Annet (817164). 12.15am Film: The Chase (453955).  
1.55am Canal Knowledge (3830665). 2.55am Film: Night Caller (8229416). 4.10am Hysteria (32232). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).  
**CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (75299). 1.40 Film: The Huntenden (8230705). 3.50 A Sport (8068831). 5.10 Channel 3 North East. Full Time (2399015). Yorks: Scoreline (2399015). 12.15am RoadCops (1965961). 1.05am Paddy Business (6618394). 1.30am Coach (6299348). 1.55am War and Remembrance (227416). 3.50am Life & Loud (6551771). 4.45-5.30am Murder, She Wrote (1809326).  
**CENTRAL**  
As London except 12.30pm Premier (75299). 1.10 ITV Sport Classics (7671657). 1.25 Champions League Special (32985229). 1.55 Eastern Mix (14740251). 2.25 Movies, Games and Videos (1589034). 2.50 Annet (1570131). 12.15am Film: The Chase (453955). 7.00 News (689505). 7.15 No. 30 (3830665). 2.55am Film: Night Caller (8229416). 4.10am Hysteria (32232). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).  
**MERIDIAN**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (75299). 1.40 A.M.O.G. (7471367). 2.10 World of Sailing (2051360). 2.40 Warner Cartoon (1589034). 2.50 Annet (1570131). 12.15am Film: The Chase (453955). 7.00 News (689505). 7.15 No. 30 (3830665). 2.55am Film: Night Caller (8229416). 4.10am Hysteria (32232). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).  
**WESTCOUNTRY**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (75299). 1.40 World of Wonder (14751267). 2.10 Film: The Boys in Blue (75855). 12.15am Film: The Chase (453955). 1.55am Canal Knowledge (3830665). 2.55am Film: Night Caller (8229416). 4.10am Hysteria (32232). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).  
**S4**  
As C4 except 7.20am Really Wild Show (8825241). 10.00 Rawhide (79980). 12.00 The Avengers (5334560). 3.10 Racing (55911367). 6.30 Travelling Vets (88257). 7.00 News (689505). 7.15 No. 30 (3830665). 2.55am Film: Night Caller (8229416). 4.10am Hysteria (32232). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).  
**5**  
As C4 except 7.20am Really Wild Show (8825241). 10.00 Rawhide (79980). 12.00 The Avengers (5334560). 3.10 Racing (55911367). 6.30 Travelling Vets (88257). 7.00 News (689505). 7.15 No. 30 (3830665). 2.55am Film: Night Caller (8229416). 4.10am Hysteria (32232). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).

## Radio

### Radio 1

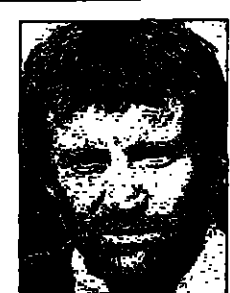
- 9.7.59 (Muzak).  
7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Joe Whitley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Lovegrove Dance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Paul Oakenfold 4.00-6.00am Charlie Jordan

### Radio 2

- 8.00-9.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show 1.00 Carol's Comedy 1.30 News Highlights 2.00 Judi Sifers 4.00 Nick Barracough 5.00 Reading Music 6.00 Joan Saez in Concert 7.00 Red-Hot and Blue 7.30 Yehudi Menuhin's 50th Birthday Concert 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Made in Wales 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-6.00am Mo Dutta

### Radio 3

- 9.00-10.00am Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. David Huxtable compiles available recordings of Wagner's Parsifal. 10.15 Record Release. 11.15 Reissues. David Fanning samples the Carl Nielsen Collection from Danacord, which contains historical recordings from the Denmark Radio Archive. 12.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to the multi-talented George Melly. 1.00 News. Simon Taitle – Home and Away (4/8). 3.00 The Department Score. 3.30 Young Artists' Forum. Presented by Sandy Burnett. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. With Geoffrey Smith. 5.45 Music Matters. Jean Hewett examines how the relationship between music and machines has changed over the ages. 6.30 Sense. Handel's opera of sibling rivalry. 9.45 Building for the Arts. How Does It Sound? (2/6). 10.15 Fearful Symmetries. John Adams conducts the Orchestra of St Luke's in a performance of his own piece, Fearful Symmetries. 10.45 Impressions. Brian Morton introduces a specially recorded session by the highly regarded saxophonist and clarinetist Tony Coe. 12.30 Mistransics. Profile of the



## Choice

Complete the following sentence: She was only a vicar's daughter, but... Robert Robinson probes for possible solutions in Ad Lib (6.50pm R4), talking to daughters of the clergy. Try also the highly mordant poetry of Peter Reading (left) in Stanza on Stage (11.30pm R4).

- 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. Topical comedy sketch show, with Sally Grace, Jon Glover, Julie Gibbins and John Duttine. 6.50 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson meets a group of daughters of the clergy. See Choice, above. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. As the director of the Royal Ballet Company begins his 10th anniversary season at the helm, Debra Cragin looks back at some of the company's achievements and finds out what fate the dancers as the Royal Opera House prepares for closure. 7.50 On These Days. A look back at some of the events that took place 50 years ago this week. The inhabitants of Staveley are horrified to discover that their village is to become the site of the first New Town in Britain. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Victoria Station. By Steve Chambers. First-Class Distinction. Set in Victoria Station, Bridgford, 100 years ago. Wednesday, 18 January 1895 is a day notable for both alarms and excursions. With Philip Jackson, Sean Baker and Julia Ford. (3/5). 9.35 Classics with Kay. With Brian Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. With the Rev Stephen Oliver. 9.59 News. 10.15 Making Up. Set against the background of the Old Queen's play club in Bristol, David Goodland's play centres on Darcy Wylie, a drag queen whose act is in need of a little spark. When his ex-partner Dennis turns up after 20 years, however, it's not just the act that gets pulled apart. With Ronald Pickup.

- 11.15 Auntie's Secret Box. The radio archives explored by Dan Strauss, Suzi Blake, Mike Hayley and Alan Francis. 11.30 Stanza on Stage. Simon Armitage introduces poet Peter Reading in a showcase of his extraordinary work, recorded at the 1996 Birmingham Readers and Writers Festival. See Choice, left. 12.00 News. Incl 12.20 approx. 12.30 Late Story: My Father. By Damon Runyan. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

### Radio 5

- 6.00-6.30am Radio 5. 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Week-End Breakfast 9.30 News 11.05 Sport on Five 6.05 Six-O-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 Dalrymple 10.05 Brief Lives 10.15 Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk with Patrice Colwell 2.05 Up All Night 4.55-6.00am Japanese Grand Prix

### Classic FM

- 0.00-1.00am Radio 5. 6.00am Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Countdown. 12.00 Classic Gardening Forum. 1.00 Alan Marm. 4.00 Nick Bailey. 7.00 News. 8.00 Sunday Evening Concert. Chabrier. Espana. Turina. Danza Fantastica. Rodrigo. Concierto Madrigal. Albeniz. Iberia Suites. Granados. Three Spanish Dances. 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Andre Leon. 4.00 Classic Travel Guide. 5.00-6.00am Michael Fantone.

### Virgin Radio

- 0215 117-1288. 10.00-11.00am Russ & Jon's Greatest Hits 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Robin Banks (Including Album Chart) 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

### World Service

- 0.00-1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Fourth Estate 4.45 Afters 4.55 Pop Short 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Short Story

## Satellite

### SV1

- 7.00am Under (5842357). 12.00 WWF (24134). 1.00 HR (74102). 2.00 News (75576). 3.00 News (11541). 4.00 WWF (30676). 5.00 Pacific Blue (5638). 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (5589). 6.30 Just Kidding (9541). 7.00 Hercules (42903). 8.00 News (64540). 8.15 The A Team (242329). 9.15 Buke & Gaskins (642683). 9.45 So Many Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (5500299). 7.25 Whatever Happened to the Lovey Lady? (662528). 5.30 Ice Hockey (93164). 6.30 Live Ice Hockey (79541). 9.00 Boxing (217980). 11.30 Kick Boxing (57299). 12.30 Live Ice Hockey (149865). 3.00-5.00am Boxing (94313).

### SV2

- 7.00am Earth 2 (4285947). 8.00 Joe (4261367). 9.00 Kinross: The Embroidered (4274831). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (5269102). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (5269102). 11.00 The Hit (11541). 12.00 News (64540). 1.00 The Return of the Living Dead (1994) (484082). 11.35 Sexual Outlaws (1995). 2.35222. 1.15 Sponser: Ceremony (1993) (275149). 2.45 See Jane Run (1994) (192688). 4.15-6.00am Pumping Iron II: The Women (1985) (631453).

### SV3

- 7.00am World Sports (92299). 7.30 Ice Hockey (19385). 8.30 Horse Racing (56589). 9.00 Selling (30541). 9.30 Hold the Back Page (60639). 10.30 Soccer (512367). 1.30 Sports Saturday (664659). 5.30 Ice Hockey (93164). 6.30 Live Ice Hockey (79541). 9.00 Boxing (217980). 11.30 Kick Boxing (57299). 12.30 Live Ice Hockey (149865). 3.00-5.00am Boxing (94313).

### SV4

- 7.00am Soccer (7325251). 10.00 Golf (7692589). 4.30 Sailing (4289928). 5.00 Fish Line (2306183). 5.30 Football Mundial (423980). 6.00 Soccer (934744). 7.30 Soccer (9934931). 9.30 Soccer (4614305). 11.00 Memories (9559596). 12.00-1.00am Soccer: FA Cup Finals of the '80s (3281787).

### SV5

- 12.00am Rugby Union (63318812). 1.00m Paddy Sports (92157522). 5.30 Sailing (9771638). 6.30 Golf (6927322). 7.30 Live Golf (60584251). 10.00-12.00am Golf: Dunhill Cup (2719299).

### SV6

- 6.00am American Came Jones (1943) (70102). 8.00 The Countess of Castella (1994) (57270). 10.00 Set Act II: Back in the Hat (1993) (28905). 12.00 Shipyard on the Rock (1994) (47993). 2.00 Telenovela: Telenovela (56102). 4.00 The Devil's Bed (1994) (7812). 6.00 Lightning Jack (1994) (43638). 8.00 Sister Act: Back in the Hat (1993) (48163). 10.00 The Adventures of Pecos, Queen of the Desert (1994) (629831). 11.45 APEX (1994) (98856). 1.30 A Bronx Tale (1993) (72528313). 3.35-6.00am Dragonair (1988) (3072139).

### SV7

- 0.00-1.00am Heart (1988) (7789882). 6.00 The Maltese Falcon (1941) (776367). 8.00 The Return of Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer (1986) (776367). 10.00 The Long Walk Home (1989) (2678369). 11.40 Our Man Flint (1965) (3373454). 1.30 Follow the Fleet (1958) (9884708). 3.20-5.35am Mulberry on the Bounty (1935) (34136226).

## Now homeowners can borrow up to £15,000 by phone and receive a cheque in days

With the new Alliance & Leicester Homeowners Loan there are no administration costs or survey fees and our attractive low interest rates really make this the affordable way to borrow a larger sum. No interview required – Phone us today!

BORROW FROM £5,000 – £15,000 AND REPAY OVER 5 – 10 YEARS. INTEREST RATE FROM <b>11.75% APR (Variable)</b>				
AMOUNT	APR %	120 MONTHS	96 MONTHS	60 MONTHS
£15,000	11.75	207.99	236.93	327.34
£13,000	11.75	180.26	205.34	283.70
£11,000	12.25	155.36	176.44	242.54
£9,000	12.25	127.11	144.36	198.44
£7,000	12.75	100.67	114.00	155.93
£5,000	12.75	71.91	81.43	111.38